FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO SUPPORTS EFFORTS FOR DETENTE IN LEBANON

NC200755 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 0645 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Text] At noon yesterday the PLO Executive Committee and the delegation of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement held a joint meeting under the chairmanship of brother Abu 'Ammar, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

At the end of the meeting the following political statement was issued:

At the meeting held yesterday between representatives of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement and the chairman and members of the PLO Executive Committee, the initiative submitted by the Lebanese National Movement on national detente was discussed. The PLO Executive Committee heard from the brothers a comprehensive explanation of the sincere objectives of all the national and patriotic forces for achieving national detente on the basis of reaching the higher national interest in a manner that will guarantee the unity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon, liberating the border zone from the Zionist occupation and achieving the Palestinian revolution's legitimate interests within the framework of the agreements concluded between the PLO and the Lebanese Government--the agreements which regulate Palestinian-Lebanese relations and specify rights, duties and commitments.

The committee affirmed to the brothers its commitment to these agreements and to their precise implementation. The PLO, while declaring its welcome of the political initiative which brother Walid Junblatt announced in his press conference, affirms its complete readiness to support every sincere attempt to achieve national detente. The PLO calls on all the Lebanese brothers, with their various views, parties and social, political and religious forces, to work at building Arab Lebanon so that it may take its natural position in the battle of resistance to the Zionist enemy and its ally, world imperialism. It is a revolution until victory.

PLO WELCOMES IRAQI NATIONAL CHARTER 'IN PRINCIPLE'

NC200857 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 0645 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, the PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, chaired a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee yesterday. During the meeting the committee discussed the national charter which was announced by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. In principle the committee welcomed the national charter on the basis of safeguarding Arab solidarity and liberating the occupied Arab Palestinian territories. The committee has requested that the charter be discussed at the forthcoming Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis before it is submitted to the next Arab summit conference.

The committee discussed the situation in the occupied homeland, particularly the new settlement onslaught in Hebron, Ramallah, Nabulus and other areas. It decided to take a number of measures on the local, Arab, Islamic and international levels to face the situation. The committee instructed its representative at the United Nations to explain the dimensions and perils of this grave policy which is being followed by the Zionist enemy against our people and which has escalated after the signing of the Camp David accord. The committee then discussed political, administrative and organizational topics.

BAHRAIN

GOVERNMENT APPROVES IRAQ'S PAN-ARAB CHARTER

NC171423 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Manama, 17 February--Bahrain has approved the pan-Arab relations charter recently proposed by Iraq. This was stated by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Jawad Salim al-'Urayyid following the cabinet meeting held today under Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah. The minister of state for cabinet affairs said that the approval came in a letter sent by the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

PAPER COMMENTS ON OPENING OF ISRAELI EMBASSY IN CAIRO

NC190730 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0518 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 February--The Bahraini paper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ asserts that the mission of the Israeli Embassy in Egypt will not be a traditional diplomatic mission but will be the gravest task undertaken by an Israeli diplomatic mission abroad. Commenting on the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo yesterday, the paper says that the mission of the embassy is to brainwash the Egyptian people, divert them from their main convictions and Arab and Islamic affiliation, and convince them that the killing and displacement of the Palestinian Arabs, expansion in the occupied Arab territories and establishment of settlements there are a national liberation operation.

KUWAIT

OFFICIAL ON SUPERPOWERS PRESENCE IN GULF AREA

NC191738 Doha QNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 15 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 15 February--Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rashid ar-Rashid has confirmed that Gulf cooperation in all fields, especially political, has achieved considerable success, but that current developments in the area require deeper and more comprehensive cooperation.

In an interview with the QNA correspondent in Kuwait, Ar-Rashid referred to the big powers' naval concentrations in the area, stressing that their military presence has continued since World War II. What is new, he said, is that this presence has been greatly intensified by the two superpowers, in addition to the presence of some French or British units.

He said that the Gulf states more than once requested at the United Nations that the Indian Ocean should be free from arms and naval concentrations, whether of the East or the West, because their presence would revive the cold war, which would affect the security and stability of the area. But the big powers, he said, have refused to respond to this request, and therefore the issue is no longer a regional one but an international one. Ar-Rashid said this issue should continuously be raised in international forums so that this objective may be achieved. He emphasized that the Arab Gulf states very much want this region to enjoy security and stability and the oil routes to the outside world to remain open because they constitute a lifeline between the oil-producing and the industrial countries. He emphasized that this is no longer the responsibility of the Gulf alone but also the responsibility of the big powers and the United Nations before anyone else.

Rashid ar-Rashid sounded a warning about what is now happening in the region. He said developments make it necessary that efforts be made to strengthen the present cooperation to face hostile plans. Ar-Rashid said a direct confrontation between the two superpowers in the area is unlikely. If it should happen, he said, it would mean the end of the world.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary said he believed that the next stage could possibly witness another kind of traditional war--war by proxy for the big powers--that would be the mark of the eighties and nineties and could continue if the cold war continued.

Ar-Rashid called on the Gulf states to understand the dimensions and objectives of the big powers and their plans for the area. He said the Gulf's relations with the world, both East and West, should be based on a cooperation that would prevent intervention, insure our independence and prevent encroachment upon our beliefs, creed or system of government.

OIL MINISTER SAYS OIL PRODUCTION TO BE CUT 25 PERCENT

LD200938 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0821 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah said today Kuwait is determined to reduce its oil production by 25 percent, that is, by 500,000 barrels a day as of next April. He said Kuwait is determined to reduce production to 1.5 million barrels from 2 million barrels, which is a ceiling it set for itself some years ago.

The Kuwaiti minister was addressing journalists on his departure for London to attend an OPEC ministerial committee meeting whose task is to draw up long-term strategy for the organization.

Shaykh 'Ali said the results of the committee's work will be submitted to an OPEC special ministerial conference to be held shortly, the date of which has not yet been set. He also mentioned that oil prices on the free market, which greatly exceeded official listed prices at the end of last year, are dropping because of an oil surplus. The Kuwaiti minister expected this surplus to increase in the light of various factors, the most important being reduced oil consumption by the industrial countries, increased production by the countries outside OPEC, and the enormous oil stock built up by the industrial countries during last year.

AID TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN IRAN ANNOUNCED 17 FEB

LD171336 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 February--Kuwait announced today that it will provide material aid to the victims of the recent floods in Khuzestan, in southern Iran. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that the cabinet has made this decision in response to the appeal made by Iranian President Dr Abdolhasan Bani-Sadr.

KUWAIT TO ATTEND MEETING ON LIBYAN-TUNISIAN CONFLICT

LD171334 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1226 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 17 February--Kuwait officially announced today that it will participate in the emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers which is to be held in Tunis on 26 February to discuss the Tunisian-Libyan conflict following the attack on Qafsah by some armed elements last month.

The Kuwaiti delegation will be led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have already announced their decision to attend the extraordinary session, which will be held within the framework of the Arab League Council to study both a Tunisian complaint and a Libyan complaint.

The Tunisian Government has accused Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of preparing the operation in which, according to official figures, 41 people were killed. Libya has denied any connection with the attack.

PDRY

YAR MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD161516 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] The northern members of the joint military committee arrived in Aden this afternoon within the framework of the unity committee's exchange visits. They are led by brother Lt Col 'Ali al-Mansur, deputy chief of general staff for military affairs. They were met at the airport by brother Lt Col Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, deputy minister of defense and head of the southern part of the military committee, and by a number of senior officers in the armed forces.

Shortly after his arrival, Lt Col 'Ali al-Mansur said that the first round of talks for this year would concentrate on the content of the working paper signed in San'a'. He said that among the most important points for discussion would be the question of national military service in united Yemen.

Concluding his remarks, Lt Col 'Ali al-Mansur expressed confidence that the discussions would proceed in a sincere brotherly spirit in the interest of Yemeni unity.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL MEETS WITH CPSU DELEGATION

LD172150 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Brother Salim Muhammad Jubran, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party organization in the Fifth Governorate, last night met the Soviet party delegation currently visiting the Fifth Governorate led by the comrade official in charge of foreign economic relations in the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat. A discussion took place during the meeting on the progress of work on projects being implemented with the assistance of the USSR. Agreement was reached on developing the tradesmen's school in (Khalf) and on commencing the Al-Hajr project, which is being implemented this year with the help of a Soviet loan. There was also discussion of the Yemeni-Soviet project in the Wadi Hadramawt.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad Ali Ba (Shanna) of the Executive Bureau of the local People's Assembly, and a number of party and state officials.

QATAR

AR-RAYAH CONDEMNS OPENING OF ISRAELI EMBASSY IN CAIRO

NC191215 Doha QNA in Arabic 1136 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Doha, 19 February--The Gulf papers today reflect the feelings prevailing in the Arab homeland after the first Israeli Embassy in Cairo was opened yesterday. The papers stress that this will only increase Israel's arrogance, intransigence and disregard of the legitimate Arab rights.

The Qatari paper AR-RAYAH says: The raising of the Israeli flag in Cairo was accompanied by the disappearnce of many other flags, including the flag of Palestine, which had remained flying over the closed PLO headquarters in Cairo and is located only a few steps from the Israeli Embassy that opened its doors in Cairo yesterday. The flags of most of the Arab states have also disappeared from the sky in Cairo.

In its commentary, the paper emphasizes that opening the first Israeli Embassy in Cairo will only lead to more Israeli intransigence and to the Zionist enemy's disregard of Arab rights. It refers in this respect to recent statements by Elyahu Ben-Elisar, the first Israeli ambassador to Cairo, who boastfully said that settlement is a right of the Israelis, who can exercise it any time without seeking the permission of anybody. The paper says these statements are a mere expression of the colonialist spirit in the racist structure of Israel, which has not changed and will never change until the end of the conflict between us and the entity that is an intruder on the Arab nation.

In conclusion, AR-RAYAH says: It is the flag of Palestine which should be raised high, not only in Cairo but also in Jerusalem and all the occupied Palestinian territory. The Israeli flag must disappear as the Nazi fascist flags disappeared after these two false flags fluttered over many parts of the world occupied by the aggressive forces.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE 'ABDALLAH RETURNS FROM TALKS IN BAGHDAD

LD200842 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0517 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, 2d deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and commander of the National Guard, returned to Riyadh early this morning from Baghdad. At the airport he was welcomed by a number of their royal highnesses and princes and senior civil and military officials.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz had a meeting yesterday in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. They reviewed issues connected with relations between the two countries and the means to strengthen them, and the present Arab position.

SNA: KING KHALID CONTINUES TO RECUPERATE

LD200838 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0518 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Dr Husayn al-Jaza'iri, the minister of health, has made the following statement:

After the completion of all medical tests on His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on Tuesday, 19 February 1980, the doctors of the King Faysal Specialist Hospital are certain that his majesty's illness was the result of the exhaustion and strain on his majesty during his trip outside Riyadh and had no relation to the operations previously carried out on his majesty. His majesty's health, God be praised, is improving constantly. All he requires is a period of rest. May God grant his majesty good health and protect him against any discomfort.

AN-NADWAH: ARABS OPPOSE SOVIET INVASION, CAMP DAVID ACCORD

LD170934 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 17 February--The Saudi paper AN-NADWAH today calls for taking a careful look at all vital calculations regarding the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It writes that any error in making these calculations or any attempt to bypass them for the attainment of private interests at the expense of others will only cause a greater explosion in the area. The paper refers to attempts by certain quarters to exploit the atmosphere now prevailing in order to secure acceptance of the Camp David agreements, which have already proved their failure, and to try to present them to the Arab nation under the guise of common action against the common danger.

The paper says the entire Arab nation, and particularly Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries, stand firmly and determinedly against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, but at the same time they stand even more firm and determined against all attempts to mollify the Arab-Zionist conflict.

KUWAITI PAPER ON DISPUTES BETWEEN SAUDIS, U.S. COMPANIES

LD181030 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 18 February--The Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS reports today that disputes have developed between the Saudi authorities and some American military organizations which carry out training and construction work in Saudi Arabia. Quoting unspecified sources in Washington, the paper says that the disputes occurred between the Saudi officials and American companies connected with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These companies are working on the construction of an important port in the area of Al-Jubayl on the Arab Gulf. The disputes arose over certain work conditions laid down by the American companies.

The paper adds that the United States sent three navy commanders to the Al-Jubayl area to conduct an "urgent" investigation into the causes of the disputes due to fear that they might "prompt the Saudis to increase their dependence on European countries in these fields, which up to now have been confined entirely to American companies."

The paper adds that "a state of disharmony" also prevails over the relations between the Saudi national guard and the American (Vinil) organization which trains these guards.

The paper reports that the Saudi Government has informed the U.S. Government that this disharmony was caused by "the arrogance of the trainers, their inability to speak Arabic properly and their refusal to learn the language."

UAE

ENVOY OF JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

OW200015 Tokyo KYODO in English 0007 GMT 20 Feb 80 OW

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, Feb 19 KYODO--Sunao Sonoda, the special envoy of Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, arrived in Abu Dhabi Tuesday night for a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates on the first leg of his 25-day tour of eight Middle East and southwest Pacific nations. Sonoda and his party were greeted at the airport by Sa'id al-Ghayth, minister of state for cabinet affairs, other UAE officials and Japanese Ambassador Ryohei Murata.

The talks with the leaders of the UAE are expected to deal with the security of the Gulf states and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) problem.

Talks With Deputy Prime Minister

NC201115 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1012 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 February--At noon today UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad and Sunao Sonoda, former Japanese foreign minister and the Japanese prime minister's personal envoy, discussed aspects of UAE-Japanese cooperation in all spheres, particularly in the oil sphere.

Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad expressed the UAE's readiness to strengthen various aspects of cooperation with Japan. He affirmed the importance of dialog between friendly states, particularly under present international conditions.

Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah also met with Sunao Sonoda. They discussed the strengthening of cooperation in the oil and economic spheres. They also discussed the anticipated results of the Japanese-Palestinian dialog and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Japan.

Sonoda arrived in Abu Dhabi last night on a visit of several days to the UAE.

Meeting With Oil Minister

OW200719 Tokyo KYODO in English 0851 GMT 20 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 20 KYODO--United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah Wednesday told Sunao Sonoda, Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira's special envoy, that the Arabs must cooperate with Japan and other Western nations in coping with the Soviet aggression in the Middle East. Al-'Utaybah said no one Arab nation can stand up to the Soviet Union and that it was necessary for Arab nations to have the cooperation of Japan, the United States and Western European countries in ensuring security in the Persian Gulf region.

Sonoda arrived here Tuesday night for a two-day visit of the United Arab Emirates on the first leg of his 25-day tour of eight Middle East and Southwest Asian nations.

Sonoda told Al-'Utaybah the big powers should not engage in power struggle in the Persian Gulf region and that countries in the region should unite in coping with threats from outside. He said Japan stood ready to assist the Arabs in this connection.

The UAE minister emphasized that it was important for superpowers to leave the region alone and accused the Soviet Union of treading a dangerous path by militarily intervening in a small country like Afghanistan. He also assured Sonoda the UAE would endeavor to provide a stable supply of oil to Japan and cooperate in Japan's effort to hold dialogue with Middle East countries.

Sonoda was scheduled to meet with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan later Wednesday.

MINISTER OF STATE HEADS ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO AFRICA

NC200806 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0742 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 February--UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah left for the Syrian capital this morning en route to Niger to begin a tour of seven African states at the head of an Arab League delegation.

'Abdallah's tour comes in implementation of the resolutions of the 10th Arab summit conference recently held in Tunis to explain the Arab point of view and developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In Damascus, 'Abdallah will be joined by Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar' and the ambassador at the Algerian Foreign Ministry, Al-'Arabi Damma' al-'Atrus.

OPEC SUMMIT TO BE CALLED ON UNIFIED PRICE SYSTEM

NC191310 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1235 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 19 February--The UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, has stated that the UAE will call for the convocation of an emergency session of the OPEC countries in order to discuss petroleum prices and to try to restore the unified price system.

At a meeting with a group of French journalists, Dr al-'Utaybah affirmed that the UAE is willing to take preparatory steps in order to make the conference succeed. The UAE petroleum minister said he believed the current petroleum prices are reasonable and acceptable. However, he added, these prices cannot be frozen for a long time. Mr al-'Utaybah proposed a gradual increase in oil prices to that the world economy can adapt to them.

CITIZENS TO BUY PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AT REDUCED PRICES

NC200856 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Al-'Ayn, 20 February--UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has allocated 200 million dirhams to subsidize the price of petroleum products in the northern emirates. The petroleum products will be sold at reduced prices to citizens only.

According to the reduction in price for the petroleum products, supergrade gasoline will cost 3.70 dirhams per gallon, ordinary gasoline 3.30 dirhams per gallon, kerosene 3.10 dirhams per gallon and diesel 3.20 dirhams per gallon.

AL-FAJR DEPLORES OPENING OF ISRAELI EMBASSY IN CAIRO

NC190738 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0620 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 19 February--Writing under the heading "The Martyr Has Died," AL-FAJR today comments on the raising of the Israeli flag over Cairo. It says: The Israeli flag has been hoisted. What do we tell the mother of the martyr? What do we tell her when she innocently asks: Have we triumphed? Yes, mother, we have triumphed and we are now decorating our sky with the Star of David.

What do we tell her when she asks. Has the Arab land been restored to the Arabs? What do we tell her when she presses her wound and says: Then the blood of the martyr has not been in vain. Do we tell her that we received the price of his blood in the Nobel Prize? Who is the Nobel and what is his prize when the dagger is still dug in the back and the finger is still stuck in the eye? There is only one word to say, mother: It was only today that the martyr died.

AL-WAHDAH REJECTS CARTER'S CALL FOR ISLAMIC ALLIANCE

NC190846 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0625 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 February--In its editorial today, AL-WAHDAH comments on Carter's recent call for the establishment of an Islamic alliance. It describes this call as suspect and says it will fail. The paper says: Carter's recent call for the establishment of an Islamic alliance to confront foreign threats is a suspect and malicious call aimed at surrounding the Arab area with U.S. influence and imposing U.S. political, economic and military domination. It also aims at linking the area to the bandwagon of U.S. imperialism under the pretext of the imminent Soviet threat to the oilfields.

Some Arab states have expressed their rejection of the establishment of any kind of alliance regardless of the justification. They did so because they are aware of the danger of alliances, which primarily serve the policy of the major powers in implementing their plans. Carter's call has met with no response except by the Egyptian regime, which pants after the United States and opens its ports to the U.S. fleet even before being asked to do so.

AL-WAHDAH goes on: The leaders of the Zionist entity were the only ones to support As-Sadat on the need to place the area at the disposal of the United States, because this would only serve the enemy and As-Sadat's regime, as it would enable the former to continue as an imperialist and colonialist entity and the latter to dominate the Egyptian people and prolong the life of the regime as long as possible. Therefore, Carter's call is rejected out of hand. It is destined to fail. Our Arab people have in the past toppled imperialist alliances such as the Baghdad Pact and others.

YAR

ARAB LEAGUE SESSION ON TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONFLICT APPROVED

LD151408 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis--Quarters close to the secretary general of the Arab League have said that Ahmad Ya'qub, the representative of the Yemen Arab Republic, has informed Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, of the YAR's approval of the emergency session of the league's council to consider the complaints of the Tunisian Republic against Libya.

AS-SADAT DISCUSSES CURRENT AFFAIRS WITH MEDIA OFFICIALS

NC191617 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 February--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that Egypt is approaching the normalization of relations with Israel with an open heart and confidence undisturbed by any complexes.

During his meeting with the information media officials today the president said: Egypt is serious about fulfiling its commitments under the peace treaty after Israel has fulfilled its commitments--after withdrawal took place from 80 percent of Sinai, and after we regained the oil, the coal mines and the passes. Furthermore, withdrawal from the remaining 20 percent of Sinai will take place within the next 2 years, if not before. He said that this was taking place while talks for autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza were going on.

The president added: While Egypt is going ahead with liberating the occupied Arab territories and regaining its rich natural resources, it does not attache any weight to the philosophy of impotence, the spirit of defeatism and the fear of Israel which still grips the leaders of the Arab states. October's Egypt has been fully liberated from the complex of fear and the spirit of defeatism. We are the masters of our own decisions and fate and fear no one.

The president said that history would record this period as the richest in our annals. In addition to liberating the land and regaining our natural resources, there is constant progress in the economy, services and investment as well as a consolidation of the democratic structure.

The president added that while Egypt was moving along the path of real achievement, it looked around and found only division in the Arab arena. In this regard he referred to the Saudi ordeal and to the disagreements between South and North Yemen, Morocco and Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, and Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn.

He said that the secret of Egypt's stability was in its democratic system. He added: No Arab state can apply the democratic system even 2 hours, because the people would expel their rulers from the country during these 2 hours.

President as-Sadat expressed his interest in maintaining the state as one of institutions and a constitution and not a one-man state. He said: I believe that no one person can shoulder the responsibility of the state. I applied this in the May 1971 revolution and drew up the permanent Constitution, which can only be amended by constitutional methods in compliance with the requirements of the period. Since Egypt adheres to democracy, it must defend it. Differences of opinion are legitimate, and there is no question about that. Each one of us is different from the other. However, differences are one thing, and slandering Egypt and arousing hatred are something else.

In this regard the president referred to those Egyptians who reside abroad and work with the enemies of Egypt in order to hurt it. He also referred to the small group of Marxists in the country that tried to cast doubts and arouse hatred at home.

President as-Sadat said: The code of ethics about which some have raised a storm is a step forward to protect democracy from its enemies. It does not affect the masses, but the small group that hurts the people and distorts their march.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED ON DOMESTIC, FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NC191315 Cairo MENA in English 1213 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 19--In an interview with the Italian television President Anwar as-Sadat said the region was hot because of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But now it is hot because of what has already taken place in Iran and then Afghanistan, and what will be coming in the Gulf.

President as-Sadat warned that the Soviets are not so far now. They are on the borders of Iran, they have already captured Afghanistan and they are very near to the Gulf. That is why it is very hot now. The Arab-Israeli conflict, he said, is only part of this conflict.

"Everybody should take his share, as the invasion of Afghanistan has changed the strategy in the area," President as-Sadat said. He noted it is not only our responsibility. Western Europe is also responsible because "you receive your oil from this vital part which contains almost sixty percent of the oil revenue in the world."

"We do not want any foreign soldier to fight our battle. We just want our friends in Western Europe to help us boost our economy because economy is real independence". "Your responsibility is to tell the Soviets in plain language: Stop here", he pointed out.

President as-Sadat noted that the recent developments in Afghanistan should foster efforts to end Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Camp David agreements, to realise a comprehensive solution. "West Europe should convince the Israelis that it is not an Arab-Israeli conflict anymore. Israel is living in the area and should take her responsibility or face the realities of what is happening in the area because they want to live in it. They should take the responsibility as all of us have taken the responsibility".

President as-Sadat referred to continuation of Israel's policy to erect settlements and pointed out the denunciation of Egypt and the whole world and expressed his deep sorrow for this although he asserted he is optimistic. The peace process has started and history never goes back at all, he pointed out, thanks to the whole world public opinion all over the world. The peace process has gained momentum and no one can stop it.

President as-Sadat hoped that Egypt, Israel and the United States reach an agreement on complete autonomy for the Palestinians whose cause is the core and crux of the problem. President as-Sadat pointed out that the Camp David agreements stated in black and white: full autonomy for the Palestinians. There is no room for the Israelis to be clever and people and not for the land. [as received]

President as-Sadat noted that the Arabs who rejected peace efforts and tried to put a boycott and isolate Egypt, now, after nine or ten months, they are isolated and Egypt is not isolated. They were trying to strangle Egypt through the economic boycott. They could not do this last year because it was a very vital year. We called it the bottleneck year. He added: "We have really got over the bottleneck and our budget this year will never depend on anyone, because we have our resources".

The country is booming here, so whatever measures they are going to take we shall be facing because there is no other alternative. History never goes back, he said, asserting that he is not ready to sell peace, whatever the price may be, whatever the difficulties may be.

In his interview with Michael (Lubrano), correspondent of the Italian television, President as-Sadat referred to ensuring food security in Egypt, noting that an important agreement will be signed on March 23 to set up an agro-industrial complex on an area of half a million acres and costing three billion dollars. He added this should be repeated until the year 2000. He noted he is not planning for the next five years or ten years but for the year 2000.

In one year we shall be self-sufficient in cement. In two years, at the beginning of 1982, we shall be exporting cement and fertilizer.

President as-Sadat referred to the importance of establishing new communities to counter problems which Egypt [word indistinct]. New communities in the new lands, he said, means setting up new cities and new houses.

President as-Sadat referred to last year's rate of growth of nine per cent according to the report of the international bank.

The interview ran as follows:

Question: Mr President, there are big diplomatic activities in the Middle East now. For instance, Donald McHenry, U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations, had a tour of the area and you received him yourself. What, sir, is your opinion about this phase of the situation in the Middle East?

Answer: Well, before anything, let me ask you to convey to our friends the Italian people all the very best wishes of the Egyptian people and myself. We have always been friends and at the difficult moments you have been with us. We shall never forget this.

Well, the Middle East now. Yes, it is again a very hot centre. I received McHenry, the head of the United States delegation to the United Nations, and he was coming to study the area and to study the changes that take place every minute not every day. Now, it has been hot before because of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Now it is hot because of what has already taken place in Iran and then Afghanistan and what will be coming in the Gulf. In the Gulf it is a matter of life or death.

I think for the West--because it means that their energy problem could rise if the oil stops to flow from the Gulf to Western Europe--I think Western civilisation would collapse. Well, the Soviets are not so far now. They are on the borders of Iran, the immediate borders of Iran. They have already captured Afghanistan, and they are very near to the Gulf. This is why it is very hot now. I think the Arab-Israeli conflict is only part of this conflict now. It is not any more the big issue now. What about the moves of the Soviets?

Question: Mr. President, the invasion of Afghanistan has changed the strategy as you have said in this area and has demonstrated the possibility for the Soviet Union to be quick in other captures. Mr President, what is your opinion about this situation and also especially to contain expansion in this area?

Answer: It is a very important question because everyone of us gets his share in it and all of us should have his share in it. As I said, whenever there is a threat to the flow of energy to Western Europe this means great danger for Western civilisation. The act in Afghanistan is not new from the side of the Soviet Union. If we go back a little or a few years before, they have started this in West Africa in the conflict that had taken place between Angola and Zaire. At that time I tried my best to tell the Americans to tell our friends in the West that the movement of the Soviet Union should be checked or there is a real threat to every freedom loving nation and at the time the United States lived with the Vietnam complex and they appeared to be on the defensive. I declared that we shall help, that it was late, and I told them: Do not be late again because the next move will be in East Africa; this was in West Africa. And they did not believe in the Congress or the Senate. Carter believed me but Carter asked me to tell the Senate and the Congress and it is in the minutes of the Congress and the Senate that the next move will be in east Africa. And it happened, they are in Ethiopia now with the Cubans.

They have made a treaty between them and South Yemen and a treaty between South Yemen and Ethiopia. South Yemen is now an observer in the Warsaw Pact and suddenly the Iranian Revolution started, everything is changing in the area. Well, this move of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan--as I told you no one should say that it was not anticipated.

You should always anticipate if you are giving importance to the persevering efforts of the Soviet Union to seize any opportunity. If you lose this you should lose at the end because they did not lost time since years. Since this Angola problem they started again in East Africa, South Yemen, then Afghanistan.

Well Afghanistan, as I told you in the answer to the first question, has changed the geopolitical situation completely in the area.

Is it our responsibility or only those who live in the area? No, you are responsible with us because you receive your oil from this very important area which contains almost sixty per cent of the oil reserves in the world and if this is checked, well I do not know what the Western civilisation would do. Every one of us must take his share. You are asking me how to contain this. Well, it is very important that every one of us should take his share, our share as we see it. We do not want any foreign soldier to come and fight our battle for us, we just want our friends in the Western world to help us with our economy because economy is the real independence. It is not the political slogan that is independence; that is economy.

Help us to build our economy and sell us arms, the new technology of arms so that we could defend ourselves.

For your side, your share is to tell the Soviet Union in plain language: stop here. They do not understand except this language.

Answering a question on the Palestinian autonomy negotiations and the Israeli decision on settlements, President as-Sadat said: Really I am very sad but I am optimistic at the same time. Let me tell you this: I am not pessimistic at all but I am very sad, really, because from time to time they come up with settlements there, settlements here, the dwellings of Israelis in Hebron. Well the whole world has condemned this and the whole world has condemned this decision not only in Egypt but as far as I know America also condemned this and as far as I know Europe also condemned this.

Let us hope that our friends there in Israel can drop all these difficulties that they are putting on the road of peace because the whole thing has started, history never goes back at all and the peace process--thanks to the whole world public opinion all over the world--has already started, has already gained momentum and no one can stop this process.

Question: Mr. President, how would Egypt act in face of the new Arab boycott after the opening of embassies in Cairo and Tel Aviv?

Answer: They not only severed relations but also tried to put a boycott and tried to isolate Egypt. And look now after nine or ten months what has happened: They are isolated and Egypt is not isolated during the last year after the signing of the treaty between Egypt and Israel.

In nine months we had eighty per cent of Sinai. We had our oil, which gives really a great help to our economy because the oil revenue and the Suez Canal revenue and all the revenues from here and there really help us. They were trying to strangle Egypt through the economic boycott. Thanks to God they could not do this last year because really it was a very vital year. We called it the bottleneck year because it was the first year; we only received from the Arabs five hundred million dollars. I do not want anyone to think that they are sending me millions or billions; no no, it is only five hundred million dollars, and we used it in the liquidity. Thanks to our friends in the Western world we have really got over this bottleneck and our budget this year will never depend on anyone.

Thanks to God we have the assets and as I told you the Suez Canal, our oil and tourism--lots of possibilities. The country is booming here really, so whatever measures they are going to take we shall be facing because there is no other alternative. As I have said history never goes back and I am not ready to sell peace whatever the price may be, whatever the difficulties.

Question: Mr President, till now Europe has been absent in the phase of the peace in the Middle East. In your opinion, in which phase of negotiations would it be associated?

Answer: Well let me remind you, when I answered your question about what is happening here in the area, I said it is not only our responsibility, it is yours also. The Arab-Israeli conflict now is only part of the big problem of the Middle East, which is our problem together. It is not only our problem and not yours in Europe; no, it is our together.

So I think as much as the problem of the Arab-Israeli conflict is part and a key to the solving of the big problem of the Middle East, it will mean that the tension will ease all over the Arab world and this is very important for the big issue that we are facing together. So your efforts are needed now to take your share in the Western world now because it is not anymore our problem only; it is part of the big problem of us all, and the development in Afghanistan should enhance the efforts towards ending this Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Camp David for a comprehensive solution. So your role really is needed now and in the future--the same as it was in the past--to convince the Israelis that it is not an Arab-Israeli conflict anymore. Israel is living in the area and should take her responsibility or face the reality of what is taking place in the area. They want to live in it; well, they must take the responsibility as all of us have taken the responsibility.

Question: Mr President: We want peace. We are ready for peace. You told me in 1974, but before your historic trip to Jerusalem there were in Europe some people who had doubt in Egypt's desire for peace. Mr President, could you state your general conception of peace and its consequences for Egypt?

Answer: Well I think we have proved ourselves since that time in '74. Let me tell you this in all frankness: We are not like our brothers in the other Arab countries. This country is a very mature country and it has seven thousand years behind it, the first government, the first state, the first civilization. For that when we have avenged ourselves in the October War everthing has been dropped from our conscience. [sentence as received] I mean bitterness, hatred, humiliation, all of that which has taken place in the thirty years before my initiative. For that when I returned from Jerusalem, believe me, I could not imagine that five million come out to hail me on my return from Jerusalem. I never anticipated. It is the people's will. It is not my will. I am happy because the whole world has seen this now. To complete this peace process the Camp David agreements and the treaty between Egypt and Israel is a solid foundation for the comprehensive settlement, because how are we going to achieve a comprehensive settlement when we do not sit together with Israel at a table. And as Weizman said lately to one of our journalists, he said: To whom are we going to give the Western Bank and the Gaza if they do not sit with us? He was right in this.

Well, the Camp David and the treaty between Egypt and Israel are the solid foundation for the comprehensive settlement. Well, let us hope that we can achieve together--Israel, Egypt and the United States--we can achieve together agreement on the full autonomy and this will mean solving the main core and crux of the problem--that is, the Palestinian problem. And in this I am optimistic. And let me add this: Taking others' land will not provide security; trying to force yourself on the others will not provide security between Egypt and Israel. They will be evacuating the whole of Sinai. This is the guarantee, because this means that security is not in the term of keeping the land of others but of willing the good feelings and the good neighbourhood of the others.

Question: Mr President, we talked about the Palestinian autonomy; but how to reconcile the two very different points of view between the Egyptian conception and the Israeli conception of autonomy?

Answer: I think this time it is easier than what we have faced before, even after my initiative. Before Camp David, you remember, we did not have any solid agreement or bases to start with. Everyone was taking a different position and there was a very wide gap between us. This time it is easier. Why? Because we have Camp David, and in Camp David it is stated like this in black and white: full autonomy for the Palestinians. Well, there is no room here for the Israelis to be clever and say that this will mean full autonomy for the people and not for the land, and all these ideas. Because of this as I told you, there is a very good opportunity, because we start this time from a solid base; that is, the Camp David agreements, that state full autonomy. And we have--this is life--we have to differ, and we have to sit together and solve our differences. I think the role of the United States as full partner is very important. And your role also, Western Europe, is very important in this precise moment to convince Israel that we are facing a new situation in the area and in the whole world. It is our peace, it is our destiny, all of us, so that we can reach an agreement. Despite the width of the gap between us and Israel, I think we have overcome many situations before that were much more difficult than this situation. It is due to patience from our side and perseverance also.

Question: Mr President, after this first phase of the peace, the reconstruction started quickly in Egypt, and the Egyptian people expect more increases in the basic consumer commodities and housing. How can you resolve this problem?

Answer: Well, it's not only our problem. It is all over the world. For sure my people anticipated and will continue to anticipate concrete results, and I am happy to say that the cabinet and the prime minister are working very hard. Look, for instance, at the communications problems that we had here. They went really and made a drastic solution for it. And I am always asking my prime minister and ministers for drastic solutions because we had a volume of problems that has been enlarged in the last twenty years. In the communications, for instance, there has been an agreement of 1.8 billion dollars. This will solve once and forever the problem of communications.

Now we are studying also a very important thing: We must produce our food here in Egypt. We have the land. We have the climate. We have the water. We have the farmer. We have everything. All we lack is the new technology in agriculture and intensive agriculture. Well, let me tell you this, there will be another drastic solution next month. In March this year we shall be starting to reclaim half a million acres in one scheme. All the feasibility studies are done. We shall sign it on the twenty-third of next March. It will cost us more than 3 billion dollars over five years. But the result will be, I shall be having an agro-industrial complex in half a million acres. This should be repeated until the year 2000. I am not planning for the next five years or ten years. I am planning for the year 2000. This shows you our kind of activity. For housing the same thing is happening. I want to tell you this: In one year we shall be self-sufficient in cement. In two years, the beginning of 1982, we shall be exporting cement, fertilizer, the same thing. So everything really is working marvellously. We have achieved last year a rate of growth of 9 percent according to the international bank's report and we are doing our best.

Let me tell you this, the new communities will solve the problems for me because we are not like you in Italy. You are living all over Italy, but we are living only on 3.5 percent of our area. And we have lots of fertile soil all over Egypt, on which we shall be starting this half-a-million-acre project and which must be repeated until the year 2000. So the new communities in the new land will mean new cities, also new housing for the people. And as I told you, we are working towards self-sufficiency in cement. In iron also: We have gas, as you know, and we have agreed upon the sponge iron that is provided by gas, not by coal. All this we are trying to be self-supporting in the next two years, and our plans are not on the tables. No, no, not at all. We have the dates, the target dates, for completing all these issues. Yes, it is a matter of two or three years and I think that the take-off will start.

Question: Mr President, some European countries think that the PLO could be associated with the peace process. In what time do you think it will be possible to make room for the PLO in these negotiations?

Answer: What we are now doing--Egypt, the United States and Israel--we are trying to reach an agreement upon the full autonomy for the Palestinians. Let me myself on this, and let our friends in Italy, the Italian people, know this. [as received] We are not speaking for the Palestinians and we shall not permit anyone to speak for the Palestinians or decide on anything for them.

What we are doing is this: We are trying to end the Israeli occupation and the Israeli military government and give the Palestinian body of the full autonomy the responsibility to look after the Palestinians in the occupied territories, in the western bank and the Gaza, in the next five years as interim only, an interim period, instead of leaving the Israeli occupation forever. That is what we have agreed upon in Camp David, so we are not speaking for the Palestinians.

We are not deciding the future of the Palestinians. They should decide their future, for that it is very essential--not only very essential, but it is a must, that after the full autonomy is applied the Palestinians should take their full responsibilities. Not before we agree on the full autonomy, because, as I told you, the full autonomy that we are trying to agree upon now is to end only the Israeli occupation, the Israeli Government and give the Palestinians the body of full autonomy to decide their future after three years. So as I told you, immediately after we agree upon this full autonomy, it is a must that the Palestinians take their full responsibilities, because it will mean deciding their future, their self-determination.

Question: Mr President, the last question. Will you be visiting Europe soon?

Answer: Actually I am not contemplating doing so in the near future because I have an eventful year ahead of me. I am busy here with my political party and with our development projects and so on. But let me hope that whenever we reach any agreement upon this autonomy we can sign it in Washington with our partner, President Carter, and on my way back it may be possible for me to have a short visit in Europe also, but not before that.

Question: Thank you very much, Mr President.

Answer: Before we end this meeting, let me express by best wishes for you in your assignment and you have asked me about the role you play. I must tell you this. I want to convey to the president of Italy my greetings and respect and to convey to the prime minister my real gratitude because the man has already started his efforts through a very important message that he sent me and I answered him in the same spirit.

We are fighting together one battle and when I ask you to convey my gratitude to the prime minister it is because really in his message he was very sincere and at the same time resuming the role that Italy should play in these moments of decision, either in the area here or for the peace of the world.

Thank you.

'SOURCE' SAYS AT-TUHAMI STATEMENTS ARE PERSONAL VIEWS

NC180600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 17 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 February--A responsible Egyptian source has said in a statement published in the Monday edition of AL-AHRAM that the recent statements made by Deputy Prime Minister Hasan at-Tuhami to the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH do not reflect any official stand but only his personal views.

The source added: While believing in the individual's freedom of expression, he, as a responsible official, should not have made such statements which are more a reflection of personal emotions rather than views, particularly since such statements were made to quarters outside Egypt and were circulated in countries which, as everybody knows, have adopted a hostile attitude toward Egypt and toward its honest efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East and secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The information media of the country in which Hasan at-Tuhami is circulating his statements have in the past raised doubts about Egypt's struggle, its victories and the martyrs of the great October War, who raised high the prestige of their nation.

Hasan at-Tuhami had stated to AS-SIYASAH that he regrets the statements and stands of certain Israeli and U.S. officials who have created doubts and suspicion about the future of the course which we have chosen for achieving our Arab rights and stability in the area.

At-Tuhami on Nation's Policy

LD171028 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0717 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 17 February--Hasan at-Tuhami, Egyptian deputy prime minister, has stated in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH, published here today, that he doubts that the Egyptian policy of peace with Israel under the patronage of the United States would lead to anything. However, he called on the Arab and Islamic countries to join in peaceful efforts for the retrieval of all the Arab territories occupied by Israel, including Jerusalem.

He also said that he hopes the Arab countries would end the isolation they have imposed on the regime of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat following his signing of a peace treaty with Israel last year.

At-Tuhami expressed doubts about the success of the current Egyptian policy in retrieving Arab rights, but he reiterated earlier statements by President as-Sadat that the United States holds 99 percent of the cards in the Middle East peaceful settlement game.

At-Tuhami added that he has "unfortunately" detected from statements made by the Israeli leaders and from their behavior toward the United States and it leaders what confirmed "my earlier doubts about the future of the course we have chosen as a means for retrieving rights and establishing stability in the area, even for a limited period of time."

AS-SIYASAH noted that At-Tuhami's statements today were part of a lengthy interview which it will be publishing in future editions.

Last month, At-Tuhami created a great clamor in Israel when he said that Israel's end was near and that he considered the Jews traitorous and treacherous people. In his interview, At-Tuhami blamed the other Arab countries for not joining Egypt in its peace efforts and said that to leave Egypt alone to seek a settlement, "was the utmost of what Israel hoped because in this way it has succeeded in dividing the Arab world." He added that "Egypt should not have been left alone because Israel has its allies, though of a different religion, and they are headed by the United States."

At-Tuhmai expressed his belief that the Egyptian-Israeli efforts under the patronage of the United States will not lead to a settlement of all the aspects of the Middle East crisis and that a complete settlement will only come "with the participation of the peoples and states concerned with the heart of the matter being Jerusalem."

Further Details

LD180940 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0726 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 18 February--Egyptian deputy prime minister Hasan, At-Tuami, today embarked on a new campaign against Israel, describing the Zionist state as a collection of dispersed people. He also described Begin as a despotic and stubborn man.

However, At-Tuhami said that the Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, who negotiated the peace treaty with Begin last year, prefers to deal with the Israeli Prime Minister Begin "because he is the strongest ruling political figure with the ability to convince the Israeli people." These statements by At-Tuhami are contained in a new installment of his interview with the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH which have caused a storm in both Israel and Egypt.

At-Tuhami expressed his belief that the Middle East question will not be solved until the Muslims join the Arabs in their struggle to retrieve their lands occupied by Israel, including Jerusalem. He added that "the true Muslim action elements have not yet joined in the international game in the Middle East; all the indications are that these Islamic forces will not avoid the decisive stage."

"Should the Muslim rally make a move, it will not give anybody else any chance for confrontation or antagonization, and if it marches, the collection of destitute people who now live by force in Jerusalem and Palestine will be too small before it," he said.

At-Tuhami added that "by his personality and ideas, Begin has been the main obstacle in the way of Egyptian-Israeli peace efforts." He added that Begin has an authority which overshadows all other Israeli leaders and that he "refuses to permit the United States to bring any pressure to bear on him. He threatens to bring down the American President if he tries to bring force to bear on the Israeli prime minister."

At-Tuhami also said that President as-Sadat "prefers to deal with Begin because he is the strongest ruling Israeli figure with the ability to convince the Israeli people and secure a Knesset decision that meets with his agreement."

He also said that the Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations are a lengthy game characterized by shrewdness and cunning. He said "the play which is unfolding in intense scenarios, as I have seen it and continue to see it, both at the peace talks table and under the canopy of peace, is a long and slow-moving play. Most of the players, if not all, act with caution, shrewdness and cunning."

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM CLAIMS MUBARAK KIDNAPPED

LD180845 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 18 February--The Kuwaiti AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM reports today that according to rumors rife in Cairo, Vice President Husni Mubarak has been abducted and taken out of Egypt in what appears to be an act of protest against normalization of relations with Israel.

In a front-page report, the paper quotes travelers from Cairo as saying last night that rumors, which have spread throughout the Egyptian capital, state that Mubarak has not been seen for 2 days and that there are strong rumors that he has been kidnaped and taken out of Egypt.

The paper says that the rumors do not specify who carried out the kidnaping. However, it draws a link between his possible disappearance and the exchange of diplomatic representation between Egypt and Israel which will take place officially on 26 February.

The paper also says that no organization has yet claimed responsibility for the operation, which seems extremely difficult in view of Mubarak's position and the intense security precautions now in force in Cairo.

LABOR PARTY LEADER SHUKRI CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

NC191057 Doha QNA in Arabic 1018 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 February--Leader of the opposition Labor Party in Egypt, Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, has called for the formation of a national body including representatives of the various parties, trade unions and organizations to boycott dealings with Israel on the basis that it still occupies Arab territory and denies the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state.

In a speech he delivered at the Labor Party's celebration commemorating deceased Egyptian leader Mustafa Kamil, the text of which is published by the party organ ASH-SHA'B today, Engineer Shukri emphasized the need for the boycott of Israel to include every thought and action. He said that it is necessary to answer Israel by organized action in order that it may realize that the issue is not simply one of issuing a law abolishing the boycott.

The leader of the opposition Labor Party renewed his call for Palestinian flags to be raised in Egypt in order that the Israelis may realize that the main issue is the Palestinian question and the right of the Palestinian people to their land. He added that raising the Palestinian flag or posting it on a wall is not a challenge to anybody, but strengthens the position of the Egyptian negotiator in confronting the intransigence of the Israeli negotiator.

Engineer Shukri added that ASH-SHA'B will print Palestinian flags so that the youth of Egypt may raise them as an expression of the Egyptian citizen's feelings. He pointed out that he had earlier called for the first lesson in all schools, on the day beginning the official normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations, deal with Palestine and the role of Egypt in defending its Arabism.

KHALIL MEETS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES DELEGATION

NC181548 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Feb 80 NC

[Text] During his meeting today with a delegation of European Christian Democratic Parties, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil spoke about Egypt's moves for the establishment of a just and permanent peace in the Middle East since President as-Sadat's historic initiative; about the constructive cooperation in the political and economic spheres between Egypt and Western Europe; and about Egypt's efforts to strengthen democracy and promote economic and social development.

The head of the Christian Democratic Parties delegation praised Egypt's policy, which is based on a profound understanding of international changes as well as its efforts for the establishment of a permanent peace in this vital area of the world.

GHALI LEAVES FOR VISIT TO SWITZERLAND, SENEGAL, GUINEA

NC170745 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0712 GMT 17 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 February--Minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, left Cairo this morning for Geneva en route to Berne for a 2-day official visit to Switzerland.

Dr Ghali said before his departure that he was going to Berne to meet with the Swiss president and foreign minister as well as other Swiss personalities in view of the strong bilateral relations and Switzerland's position as a headquarters for the most important international organizations.

Dr Ghali added that after Switzerland he would go to Senegal with a written message from President Anwar as-Sadat to Senegalese President Leopold Senghor. In addition, on President as-Sadat's instructions, he would explain the latest Middle East developments and Egypt's diplomatic efforts to assist the Palestinian people in achieving their right to self-determination.

He also said that he would then go to Guinea to deliver a similar message to Guinean President Sekou Toure explaining the latest Middle East developments.

GENERALS ADDRESS AIR DEFENSE FORCES CEREMONY

NC171601 Cairo MENA in English 1550 GMT 17 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 17 (MENA)--General Ahmad Badawi, chief of staff of the armed forces, said there would not be any military detente and nothing will decrease the fighting efficiency of the armed forces because we believe that genuine peace does not keep pace with logic or the nature of the age, which is characterized by conflicts and aggressive acts.

Addressing the ceremony held on the occasion of the day of training of the air defense forces, Ahmad Badwai said the decision of diversification of sources of weapons, and Egypt opening up to world countries advanced in this field, created better conditions to get sophisticated arms and weaponry without restrictions or any pressures undermining Egyptian sovereignty or handicapping armed forces from undertaking their mission in full.

Lt General Badawi said modern warfare is based on full absorbtion of science and technology, adding that the duty put on the armed forces' shoulders is grave. But the armed forces are capable of shouldering it, thanks to God's blessing and the support rendered by Egypt's faithful people.

The chief of staff said the armed forces training day is considered an objective pause at the end of every year to assess the positives and the negatives.

Lt General Badawi added that the history of the air defense units is fraught with the greatest of heroic acts and glorious achievements, which give us more confidence that they would remain alert and ready for all contingencies.

Chief of Air Defense Maj Gen Sayyid Ahmad Hamdi said this celebration took place in the wake of the great celebrations marking the recovery of three-quarters of the Siani desert to Egyptian sovereignty and the liberation of the most significant strategic area; namely the passes.

Major General Hamdi reminded the Arab countries that what has already been realised on the path of peace was the result of painstaking and sincere efforts on the part of the armed forces and the blood of the October War martyrs.

Chief of Training Department Major General Ahmad Sharif said despite the Arab countries boycott against Egypt, nationals of these countries are receiving military training in Egypt, indicating that some 20 Kuwaiti and 19 UAE officers were graduated from the Air Defense Academy in Egypt in 1979.

AL-AKHBAR ON DISPATCH OF ARAB FORCES TO AFGHANISTAN

NC200747 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR analyzes the significance of the decision by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to withdraw his forces from Lebanon. In this regard, the paper refers to news agency reports, quoting diplomatic circles in Tokyo, that the Soviets are currently seeking to mass military forces from loyal Arab states to partially replace the Soviet forces in Afghanistan--along the same line the Soviets used previously in deploying Cuban forces in the civil war in Angola and in the conflicts in Ethiopia and Mozambique. The reports further say that such forces will come from South Yemen, Syria and the PLO.

Commenting on these reports, AL-AKHBAR says: This is the great secret. Naturally, Al-Asad could not divulge this secret or refer to it in any way. The fact is that the news agency reports quoting diplomatic sources in the Japanese capital are true. This was the main topic which Andrey Gromyko discussed with Al-Asad and the 'Alawite Ba'thist group in Damascus.

After a 3-day discussion which dealt with the various aspects of this topic, Gromyko left Damascus and claimed that he had differed with Al-Asad because he wanted Syria's support for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan to be public. But Al-Asad asked that this support be secret. Everyone knows that the Ba'thist Government has publicly supported the Soviet invasion in the loudest voice. The truth is that Gromyko did not ask for public support but for practical support: the dispatch of Syrian forces to fight alongside the Soviets against the Muslim people in Afghanistan. In order that Al-Asad's position may not be exposed to the Arab and Islamic worlds, it was agreed to call the Arab forces that will fight in Afghanistan the Cuban Muslims.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that this is the Soviet plan to enlist the services of their agents and sacrifice these agents for the sake of their ambitions and aims.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY TO ISSUE PALESTINIAN PASSPORTS

JN201001 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 16 Feb 80 p 20 JN

[Text] An authoritative Palestinian source has confirmed that the Egyptian Government, in agreement with the Israeli Government, has prepared Palestinian passports. Egypt will start issuing these passports immediately upon the agreement on the self-rule formula on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestinian source said that Egypt will first issue passports to the Gaza Strip citizens and then to the West Bank citizens. The Palestinian source expressed the conviction that the West Bank citizens will refuse to carry the proposed passports and will continue to carry Jordanian passports.

$3.5 BILLION AGROINDUSTRIAL COMPLEX ANNOUNCED

NC191619 Cairo MENA in English 1435 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 19, (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat announced today during his meeting with mass Media leadership that Egypt will start next March in preparing half-a-million acres for the establishment of an agricultural-industrial complex according to up-to-date technology, and that the project will cost 3.5 billion dollars and end in 1982. The president added that the project will extend to cover one million acres at the end of the year 2000. President as-Sadat announced that Egypt will use the same spirit in implementing a project for popular housing.

PRESIDENT HUSAYN RECEIVES SAUDI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

JN192043 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 February--In the presidential palace this evening, President Saddam Husayn received 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and national guard commander. During the meeting, the latest developments in the Arab arena and recent international events were discussed. The discussion also dealt with bilateral relations in different fields, to serve the Arab nation.

PRESIDENT HUSAYN RECEIVES FATAH OFFICIAL 18 FEB

JN191259 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 19 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 February--President Saddam Husayn, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received here last night Muhammad Abu Mayzar, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and officer in charge of public relations. During the 4-hour meeting, the Arab situation, particularly developments in the Palestinian issue, were discussed. Bilateral relations and ways of developing these relations in the interests of the Arab nation's pan-Arab struggle were also discussed.

Muhammad Abu Mayzar highly praised the loyal support given by the party and revolution leadership for the Palestinian issue and its backing of the steadfast masses of our Palestinian people in their armed revolution and confrontation of the aggressive schemes. The meeting was attended by Na'im Haddad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member and director of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office.

Official Departs

JN191740 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 February--Muhammad Abu Mayzar, Fatah Revolutionary Council member and officer in charge of public relations, left Baghdad this evening at the end of a 5-day visit to Iraq. During his visit, Muhammad Abu Mayzar and Arab Socialist Ba'th Party officials discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote these relations in the interest of the Arab nation's pan-Arab struggle.

BURUNDIAN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD 18 FEB

JN182250 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2105 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 February--Lt Col Edouard Nzambimana, Burundian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, and an accompanying delegation arrived here today on a visit of several days at the invitation of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Minister Nzambimana said that he is carrying a message to President Saddam Husayn from Burundian President Lt Col Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. He added that he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on developing bilateral relations and will exchange viewpoints on matters of mutual concern and the international situation in the Arab and African regions.

OIL MINISTER LEAVES FOR LONDON OPEC MEETING 18 FEB

JN180919 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 February--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, RCC member and oil minister, left for London today to attend the fourth meeting of the six-member ministerial committee in charge of planning long-range strategy for OPEC.

In a statement to INA, Minister 'Abd al-Karim said the conferees will discuss the Iraqi proposal to establish a fund to assist developing countries, to commit oil-producing and industrialized countries to compensate developing countries for inflation rates exported by industrial countries to developing countries, and to exempt developing countries from oil increases through loans and aid.

The minister added that the meeting will discuss a long-range plan to be adopted by the organization that includes its viewpoints on price and production policy, consolidating its unity, its international economic role, and the relations of the organization with the rest of Third World countries to reinforce their struggle in creating a new world economic order based on justice and equality in relations.

He said that the proposed plan will be submitted to the coming OPEC ministerial conference due to meet in Algeria which in turn will submit it to the OPEC summit conference to be held in Baghdad on 1 November to approve the plan.

The six-member committee consists of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria, Venezuela and Iran.

COMMENTARY REVIEWS CONDITIONS FOR RESUMING TIES WITH U.S.

JN172033 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Feb 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Certain suspect papers and circles have recently begun to disseminate fabricated and baseless reports about a resumption of Iraqi-U.S. relations, a meeting between senior Iraqi officials and Brzezinski at some Iraqi-Jordanian border point, the possibility of a visit by President Saddam Husayn to the United States and other such desperate fabrications.

The hatred harbored by these circles against the Ba'th Party and its pioneering revolution in Iraq has prompted them to ignore all the clear facts, which confirm Iraq's firm and principled stands on adopting an independent revolutionary line which is based on the role of self-will in attaining political and economic independence and in asserting the Arab nation's free will and pan-Arab dignity far from all forms of international pressures, from whatever source and whatever their nature.

The 17-30 July revolution has frankly and clearly defined its policy and stands on the international level far from any form of maneuvering or opportunism. At a time when this revolution asserted the role of the national and pan-Arab will in defining equal relations based on common interests with all the nations and peoples of the world, whether big or small, it has always affirmed that the stand on the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict is the central pivot according to which its relations with other states are defined.

Since the United States has adopted a stand of total bias in favor of the Zionist enemy in the Arab nation's just struggle against this enemy, the stand of the Ba'th Party and its revolution has been characterized by hostility to the Washington government in view of its stand against the legitimate rights of the Arab nation. Therefore, the justifications for Iraq's severance of its relations with the United States in the wake of the Zionist aggression on 5 June 1967, which largely depended on U.S. support, continue to exist, because the United States continues to give increasing support to the Zionist entity in its aggressive designs against the Arab nation. Furthermore, the United States is a major party to the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat alliance, which is hostile to the Arab nation and which concluded the Camp David accords and the treasonous peace treaty between the Zionist entity and As-Sadat's regime.

The 17-30 July revolution's stand on the United States is based on these considerations. As our leader and President Saddam Husayn has affirmed on several occasions and recently in his interview with the AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI magazine, we will reconsider our relations with the United States when the United States reconsiders its biased stand in favor of the Zionist entity in the Arab-Zionist conflict and when it adopts a stand supporting our legitimate Arab struggle against the Zionist entity. We will then adopt a frank stand on the restoration of relations with the United States.

Based on this clear stand and the various stands and practices of the revolution over the past 11 years, the fabrications disseminated by suspect papers and circles about a resumption of Iraqi-U.S. relations, without the required change in the U.S. attitude on the Arab nation's struggle against the Zionist entity, will remain empty talk, the style and timing of which expose the extent of the imperialist circles' hatred of our courageous revolution, which is forging ahead with determination toward its historic objectives.

We are not some of those who hold secret meetings at some border point with U.S. or other envoys because our stands are clear, firm and frank. When the revolution wants to adopt a certain stand, it does so publicly and in broad daylight. It announces it to Arab and world public opinion without equivocation and with total frankness and clarity.

This is the line followed by the party and revolution leadership in adopting stands on the most serious issues connected with our destiny. Therefore, all the base fabrications, no matter how clever their propagators believe they are in exploiting the political circumstances prevailing in the world, will remain false allegations which will not be able to touch the lofty forehead of our revolution, which is marching forward with firmness and determination in accordance with its independent line and the will and crucial issues of the Arab nation and until its historic objectives of unity, liberty and socialism are achieved.

KING HUSAYN, DELEGATION LEAVE FOR ROMANIA 20 FEB

JN201030 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Romania this morning on a 3-day official visit at the invitation of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. During the visit, His Majesty King Husayn will hold talks with President Ceausescu on the Middle East situation, current international issues and relations between the two countries.

His majesty is accompanied by a delegation composed of the prime minister, the chief of the royal court, the chief chamberlain and his majesty's military secretary.

Crown Prince Hasan was sworn-in before his majesty and the cabinet as regent during his majesty's absence.

PREMIER TALKS TO PRESS ON ECONOMIC, SECURITY, ARAB ISSUES

JN192120 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] Prime Minister ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf met at the Prime Ministry this morning with members of the local press and representatives of Arab and foreign news agencies and newspapers. The prime minister began this meeting with a statement in which he said that the government has promised to be sincere and frank with the citizens and to ask them cooperate with its strategy in dealing with the problems facing our society.

The prime minister said: Our main problem is the budget deficit and our dependence on foreign aid, which comes mainly from Arab states with whom we have fraternal and national ties. We must exert a greater effort in productive work within the framework of our economy, so as to improve our local resources and thus finally meet this deficit.

The prime minister added: The increase in the prices of fuel has greatly affected our economy. This increase was due to the increase in world oil prices, which is beyond our control. Jordan pays for its oil imports at the prevailing world prices, which is why the government had to take the painful, but practical decision to ask the citizens to share the burden.

The prime minister explained that as a result of the recent increase in the prices of fuel in the kingdom, the government will be subsidizing these prices by 31 million dinars.

The prime minister said: The main reason for inflation in Jordan is that we import most of our consumer goods, including provisions. This situation, if it continues, will always place us at the mercy of outside changes. The prime minister called on the citizens to change their consumption habits.

Replying to a question put by journalists, the prime minister said: A dialog is underway to ask our Arab brothers to supply Jordan with oil at prices lower than the prevailing world prices. We hope that the fraternal oil-producing countries will act in accordance with their pan-Arab responsibilities by cooperating with us and the other frontline states in this respect.

Regarding the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel and the hoisting of the Israeli flag in Cairo, the prime minister said: We are pained that the Israeli flag was hoisted in Arab Cairo, whose people have sacrificed a great deal for the sake of the Arab nation, pan-Arab issues and the Islamic world. We are also pained that all this has taken place at the expense of Palestinian and Arab rights. The Baghdad and Tunis summit resolutions are a clear reply to the Egyptian leadership, which has chosen to disengage itself from its Arab nation, history and national mission. The hoisting of the Israeli flag in Cairo is a big setback. However, we believe that our people and nation have the strength and ability to continue the struggle to regain the initiative to rectify this fault, restore the balance and lead our nation to victory and the restoration of Arab rights.

Replying to a question on oil prospecting in Jordan, the prime minister said: An international company has just completed studies carried out in several parts of the kingdom. In the near future, the government will invite world companies to begin oil prospecting. At the same time, local firms will do prospecting work in accordance with a parallel program. The prime minister added: The initial studies did not produce any positive results. However, this will not prevent the government from continuing with prospecting work.

Replying to a question on developing democracy and the possibility of improving on the National Consultative Council, the prime minister said: We believe in democracy and in developing its formulas through the independence of the judiciary and the preservation of the constitution. We also hope that domestic and national circumstances will enable us to develop our democratic practices. The prime minister added: The government is cooperating with the National Consultative Council to develop its formula and efficacy.

Replying to a question on those convicted or detained for security reasons, the prime minister said: We in Jordan do not detain or convict anyone for his political beliefs. The very people tried and sentenced by the courts were convicted on charges of violating the law and the constitution and for engaging in activities detrimental to national security. The prime minister asserted that the government's concern for the supremacy of the law equals its concern for national security. Dealings with the citizens are primarily aimed at protecting the homeland.

The ministers of supply and industry and trade also joined in answering some of the questions. Information Minister Dr Sa'id at-Tall also attended the meeting.

BRIEFS

IRAQI LOAN--The AD-DUSTUR correspondent has learned that the Iraqi Government has approved in principal a grant of 4 million dinars to Jordan for the purpose of raising the standard of services, setting installations in the free zone area in Aqaba and bolstering the projects of the Free Zones Institution. [Text] [Amman AD-Dustur in Arabic 15 Feb 80 p 1 JN]

AL-HUSS DEPLORES RAISING ISRAELI FLAG IN EGYPT

NC191330 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Commenting on the raising of the Israeli flag in Egypt, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has made the following statement: That the Israeli flag is raised in an Arab land,while Israel continues to violate Arab rights, is indeed a saddening matter. As far as Lebanon is particular is concerned, the shock generated by this event is deepened by the tragic situation in southern Lebanon because of Israel's continuing acts of aggression. These acts mirror the fact that Israel slights all humanitarian, ethical and cultural values and disregards not only all international practices and principles but also challenges UN resolutions and the will of the international community.

SARKIS APPOINTS NEW INTERIOR, TOURISM MINISTERS

NC181036 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1015 GMT 18 Feb 80 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis today signed decrees assigning the Interior Ministry portfolio to Minister Nazim al-Qadiri and the Tourism Ministry portfolio to Minister 'Ali al-Khali. The two posts became vacant upon the death of Minister Bahij Taqiyy ad-Din.

'PROGRESS' MADE FOR RETURN OF

NC170644 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] The current attempts to release Deputy Edmund Rizq, who was kidnaped last Wednesday, made good progress after lawyer Francois Jabr's visit to Zgharta, his meeting with former President Sulayman Franjiyah and his visit with Deputy Rizq in his place of detention.

It seems that the solution envisaged is the release of Deputy Rizq in return for the release of the six Zgharta men captured by Phalangists months ago. Lawyer Jabr said he was convinced that the matter was on its way to a solution and that the exchange of the kidnaped persons was now possible.

AL-JUMAYYIL: FRONT WILL RESORT TO ANY STATE FOR PROTECTION

NC191928 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Today's Lebanese Front meeting, which was attended by Al-Jumayyil, Sham'un Deputy Hunayn and George and Francois Jabr, was not official, according to former President Camille Sham'un. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil told reporters that the Front discussed the detention of Deputy Edmund Rizq and the war of annihilation being waged against the peaceful villages of the north by the Syrian forces, which had originally come to help restore security in Lebanon.

He added: I address an appeal to the world at large and to the Arab world, particularly to those Arab states that have undertaken the responsibility of putting an end to the war of destruction being perpetrated by foreign hands, mostly Arab. The United Nations and the free world should seek to rescue Lebanon--its history, culture, and democracy--from the barbaric onslaught to which it is being subjected. Israel shells the south and renders its people homeless; the Syrian Army shells Al-Batrun and Al-Kurah. What [words indistinct] is this and what is this coordination between an enemy and a brother while foreign subversives play havoc inside? Did Syria send in its army so it could fight in the north, in Al-Jabal and in Beirut and kill innocent people? Isn't the Golan the right place for this army so it can regain the occupied territory and repulse Israeli attacks in the south? We have stood fast for 5 years and we will continue to do so. If the Arab silence continues we will resort to any state that can protect us.

ARMY CRITICIZES PAPERS FOR PUBLISHING ISRAELI REPORT

NC162045 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Feb 80 NC

[16 February statement issued by the Lebanese Army Information Directorate--read by announcer]

[Text] On 16 February a broadcasting station of the Israeli enemy carried a report which was dissiminated by some Lebanese papers. The aim of the report was to sow intrigue and to give the impression that the army command could become a tool against the Lebanese legality. Those who have exerted military efforts and have clearly consolidated them in the Arab and international spheres in order to spread the sovereignty of the legal authority in south Lebanon, particularly in the so-called border strip, with a view to terminating all forms of Israeli occupation by political and military methods--those who have exerted all these efforts have proved in the south and elsewhere that they are a firm and useful tool in the hands of the legality and not against it.

The enemy's attempt to fabricate a report casting doubt on the fraternal relationship between the Lebanese and Syrian armies is an abortive attempt. The ties between the fraternal armies are too strong to be harmed by hostile and biased propaganda campaigns. The hand of the enemy will not reach these ties. In appealing to the noble Lebanese press not to publish fabricated reports harmful to the security of the army and the state, the army commander also urges the press to enjoy the press virtues and the national spirit in order to foil attempts by anyone wishing to fish in troubled waters.

TENSION HEIGHTENS BETWEEN IRISH, 'FAIT ACCOMPLI' FORCES

NC170653 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Feb 80 NC

[Text] The situation in the south is still tense. In addition to the artillery exchanges, a new crisis has emerged between the UN forces and the fait accompli forces. The latest reports said that the dispute between the fait accompli forces and the Irish forces working under UNIFIL had been settled. However, the agreement to permit the entry of supplies for the Irish forces, did not provide for the return of three jeeps that were captured by the fait accompli forces after they accused the UN forces of not combating infiltration into the border strip.

HADDAD CALLS FOR SUPPORT FROM MUSLIMS

NC200917 Marj Iuyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

["Appeal" by Maj Sa'd Haddad, "commander of Free Lebanon," to "Muslim communities in occupied Lebanon"--read by announcer]

[Text] My brothers in the Muslim communities in occupied Lebanon: We know how much you are suffering from the bitterness of the Syrian-Palestinian occupation. We also know that you are longing to see the removal of this burden from your shoulders. We also know very well that you need loyal leaders who will attain your hopes.

Major Haddad said: I ask you not to be despondent. I ask you to have confidence in us. We shall endeavor to help you as we help our sons. Do not be alarmed by this offer because it is not necessary that your commander be Muslim in order to be loyal to you. What is more important is that he be a patriotic, loyal Lebanese. If you show confidence in us, I will then ask you to begin a guerrilla war against the Syrians and the Palestinians and to kill them wherever you find them. If you do what I have asked, I will in the future give you instructions on the next goals.

AL-ASAD CHAIRS MEETING OF NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE FRONT

JN161946 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Central Command of the National Progressive Front met at 2100 today under the chairmanship of President Hafiz al-Asad. The agenda included a discussion of the report submitted by the committee that was formed by a decree from the front's chairman to draw up appropriate formulas to develop the National Progressive Front.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE NATIONALIST DELEGATION

JN162024 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Feb 80 JN

[Text] At 1915 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the Lebanese Nationalist Movement's delegation made up of Walid Junblatt, 'Asim Qansuh, Dr 'Abdallah Sa'adah, 'Abdallah al-Amin, Muhsin Ibrahim, George Hawi, Dr Samir Sabbagh, Albert Mansur and Tawfiq Sultan. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, prime minister for foreign minister, and Dr Wahib Tannus, Ba'th Party Regional Command member.

Walid Junblatt explained on behalf of the delegation the plan announced by the Nationalist Movement concerning the political solution in Lebanon. A review was made of the contents and main points of the plan. A review was also made of the entire situation in Lebanon and its recent developments.

Earlier this evening, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the Lebanese Nationalist Movement's delegation led by Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP]. The meeting was attended by Dr Wahib Tannus, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and chairman of the regional higher educational office.

The Lebanese Nationalist Movement's delegation arrived in Damascus from Beirut at 1700 today on a brief visit to Syria. In a statement to SANA, Walid Junblatt said that his visit comes as part of the contacts and discussions which the Lebanese Nationalist Movement is holding with all sides in the Lebanese arena and with Syria officials following the movement's proposal of a plan for a political solution of the Lebanese crisis. He pointed to the movement's memo, which included the plan of political solution and which was announced at a press conference held by Junblatt yesterday. He added that he will hold consultations with Syrian officials on this plan. He affirmed that Syria has a basic role in promoting security and stability in Lebanon.

The delegation comprises 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon; Muhsin Ibrahim, executive secretary general of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and leader of the Communist Action Organization in Lebanon; George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party; 'Abdallah Sa'adah, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party; Samir Sabbagh, representing the Independent Nasirite Movement, Al-Murabitun; deputy Albert Mansur; Tawfiq Sultan, PSP Command Council member; and Mahmud 'Abd al-Khaliq, Syrian Social Nationalist Party member.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE ISLAMIC COUNCIL DELEGATION

JN171307 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Feb 80 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1115 today a delegation representing the Islamic Council in Lebanon led by Shafiq al-Wazzan and comprising Muhammad as-Sahili, Khalil Timsah and 'Arif Hammud. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddan, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The talks dealt with the general situation in the fraternal country, particularly the importance of exerting efforts by the Lebanese sides to achieve a national consensus. In this regard, the plan proposed by the nationalist forces for a peaceful settlement was reviewed. In the name of the delegation, Shafiq al-Wazzan praised the efforts exerted by Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad and the sacrifices offered for the sake of Lebanon. He reaffirmed the strong ties between the two fraternal countries.

President Hafiz al-Asad also received at 1330 today his Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy leader of the Higher Shi'ite Council in Lebanon. During the meeting, talks dealt with the situation in the Lebanese arena and the situation in southern Lebanon in particular. They also reveiwed the efforts aimed at achieving a national consensus in Lebanon.

NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE FRONT MEETS 19 FEB

JN192001 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--The National Progressive Front Central Command met under President Hafiz al-Asad at 1730 tonight. The Central Command resumed discussion of a working paper prepared by the drafting committee, which was formed upon instructions of the front's chairman, to lay down formulas suitable for further developing the National Progressive Front.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY TO TRY TO SETTLE IRAN-USSR DIFFERENCES

LD181038 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0717 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 18 February--According to the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, a senior Syrian official who the paper does not name will visit Tehran soon in an attempt to settle differences between Iran and the USSR following the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Quoting Palestinian sources in Beirut, the paper says that the Syrian official's visit will be a continuation of the visit to Iran by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat earlier this month.

Iran has condemned the Soviet intervention and demanded an immediate end to it. Syria, which has strong ties of friendship with both the USSR and Iran, had refrained from condemning the Soviet action and has attacked those who criticized the Soviet intervention.

The paper says that 'Arafat acquainted the Iranian officials with what it describes as information available to the Syrian and Palestinian commands about the likelihood of a limited war breaking out between Syria and Israel.

The paper adds that 'Arafat informed the Iranians of "the Soviet view that a war in the region at present will favor Syria and will automatically lead to the overthrow of the Egyptian regime," which signed a peace treaty with Israel last year.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID RECEIVES ENVOY BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR LIBYA

LD171348 Algiers APS in English 1230 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Algiers, 17/2/80 (APS)--Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN Party secretary general, received Saturday, at the seat of the presidency, Dr Boualem Benhamou, Politburo member, home minister, before his departure for the Socialist Popular Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah as President Chadli's special envoy to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

PDRY DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS IN

LD172050 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Summary] Mr 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, the PDRY defense minister, arrived in Algiers this afternoon with a spoken message for President Bendjedid from PDRY leader 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il. The minister said he would discuss with Algerian officials national, pan-Arab and international affairs in addition to bilateral relations and means of consolidating them.

Received by Bendjedid

LD182118 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Summary] President Bendjedid has received the PDRY defense minister, Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, who handed the president a message from PDRY Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il. The PDRY defense minister left Algiers this evening.

LIBYA

DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH FIVE ARAB COUNTRIES THREATENED

LD201002 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] Kuwait--The Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH today reports that Libya has threatened to break off relations with five other Arab countries if they receive French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who intends to visit these countries next month.

Quoting sources in Tripoli that it describes as senior, it says that the Libyan Foreign Ministry has sent messages to leaders of these five governments informing them that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has decided to withdraw ambassadors and break off diplomatic relations with them if they receive President Giscard d'Estaing.

The paper says that the countries--Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Jordan--were surprised and stunned by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's decision. However, they have not yet given their replies.

TRIPOLI: MOROCCAN FORCES PROTECT TUNISIAN REGIME

LD191258 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] JANA has learned that Royal Moroccan forces have arrived in the Tunisian protectorate. These Moroccan forces have joined the French invasion forces to fight the Tunisian people to protect the ruling regime in the protectorate against the popular revolution which broke out in Qafsah and extended to other Tunisian regions.

JANA CITES 'GREEN MARCH' ON FRENCH IMPERIALISM

LD191022 Tripoli JANA in English 0935 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The newspaper "GREEN MARCH" yesterday published an article in which it dealt with the emergency meetings held by the Basic People's Congress throughout the Jamahiriyah and the repercussion of the flagrant French invasion of Tunisia in the wake of the Qafsah uprising.

Under the title heading "The Ugly Face of France" the newspaper dealt with the recurring role unsuccessfully played once again by imperialist France after previous setbacks in Africa.

The paper said France over the last ten years has carried out barbaric campaigns against the peoples of Congo and Shaba Province and in Central Africa and Chad. French imperialism has also committed the most heinous of crimes against the people of Saguia Hamra and Rio de Oro, using the most modern weapons of destruction. The paper added: "Today the same game is being played once again in staunch Tunisia people which rejects the ruling fascist clique and is struggling to overthrow it, thus ridding the people of oppression." [as received]

The convening of people's congresses at this delicate stage affirms the mass solidarity between the Libyan Arab and Tunisian peoples in the quest for freedom, throughout the world, as stipulated by the historic document which declared the people's authority. (?All) congresses were unanimous in their readiness to confront French imperialism through all means available, including war and the disruption of French interests throughout the world."

The article expressed belief that the Tunisian people's revolution draws its strength from all those who believe in it, thus transforming the country's soil into flames for all those who have captured the land and rendered Tunisia a base for imperialist aggression against neighbouring countries, especially the Jamahiriyah.

All we have which remains to be said is that the Tunisian revolutionary forces should exercise caution and vigilance. Let this revolution follow its path, with the help of the strong determination of the freedom-fighting people so that the Tunisian masses and the Arab nation might feel proud again and so that Tunisia may rid itself from the hireling regime and having to share borders with the invading French troops.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR 16 FEB

LD162228 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The brother commander of the revolution today received the USSR ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES CZECHOSLOVAK DEFENSE MINISTER

LD152048 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi leader of the grand Al-Fatah revolution received yesterday General Martin Dzur, the Czech defence minister and member of the Central Committee of the Czech Communist Party.

Dzur Departs

LD152050 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Gen Martin Dzur, the Czech defence minister and member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, left Tripoli today after a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He has been given an official send off at Tripoli international airport headed by Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, general commander of the Libyan armed forces, a number of officers, the Czech ambassador to Jamahiriyah, the airport director and a representative of the military Protocol Department.

In a statement to our correspondent Gen Dzur praised the great achievements realized by the grand Al-Fatah revolution in all fields. He also expressed his admiration for the Libyan armed forces standard both in arms and training. He praised the good ties between the friendly people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Czechoslovakia hoping for these relations to grow and visits to be exchanged.

PDRY DEFENSE MINISTER MEETS AL-QADHDHAFI 15 FEB

LD152100 Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received today Mr 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, the South Yemeni minister of defence, and member of the Political Bureau of the Yemen Socialist Party.

Meets Jallud

LD162118 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 16 February, JANA--Brother Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud received at the People's Palace this morning Brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and PDRY defense minister. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the YSP Central Committee, minister of industry and president of the oil and minerals authority of the PDRY, and the Yemeni ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

Meets Jabir

LD171008 Tripoli JANA in English 0833 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 17, JAMAHIRIYHA NEWS AGENCY--The general commander of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, received yesterday at noon, Staff Brigadier 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, Socialist Party Politbureau member and minister of defence of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Brigadier Antar is currently on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Ends Visit

LD171340 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] 'Ali Ahmad Antar, PDRY defense minister and member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party, left Tripoli this morning at the end of a visit to the Jamahiriyah during which he held talks on all aspects of cooperation between the two countries. Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, headed those who saw him off at the airport.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES ALGERIAN INTERIOR MINISTER

LD191505 Tripoli JANA in English 1410 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The leader of the grand al-Fatah revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received last night Mr. Abu Allam Ben Hammouda, the member of the Political Bureau and minister of the interior, in Algeria who was delegated by President Chadli Bendjedid within the context of solidarity between the two revolutions to develop unionist action between their countries. Mr. Abu Allam will also prepare for the meeting of the enlarged committee on unionist action due to meet in Tripoli very shortly, and to consider the grave developments taking place in the Arab region, particularly after the French invasion of Tunisia.

The grand al-Fatah and the Algerian revolutions are known to have agreed to jointly confront this colonialist offensive. Moreover, they are adopting the same stand in support of the brotherly Tunisian people in their just struggle for the liberation of their homeland from the invading French troops.

MINISTER STRESSES ALGERIA'S READINESS TO UNITE WITH LIBYA

LD191526 Tripoli JANA in English 1436 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Mr Abu Allam Hammouda, the member of the Political Bureau and interior minister of Algeria left Tripoli international airport last night after a short visit to the Jamahiriyah during which he reviewed the Algerian-Libyan Arab viewpoints. Mr Hammouda was seen off by Mr Muhammad Ali Jaddi, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice, the Algerian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah, his counterpart in Algiers and the head of the Protocol Department.

Mr Abu Allam Ben Hammouda gave a statement to JANA's reporter, expressing his satisfaction at his visit to the Jamahiriyah. Mr Hammouda announced that the joint committee would meet soon to define stages for achieving the unity both countries are looking forward to and stressed Algeria's readiness to unite with Libya. Mr Hammouda disclosed that a top-level meeting would be held in the Jamahiriyah to consider ways of achieving unity.

In his statement, Mr Hammouda said that viewpoints were identical in all the matters discussed, particularly on the situation in the Arab region. He also stressed that both parties have condemned the French-American invasion of the Arab region.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA COMMENTS ON SAHARA, TUNISIA, AFGHAN ISSUES

LD191320 RABAT MAP in English 1209 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

LD191320 Rabat, Feb 19 (MAP)--"We will stay in our Sahara despite the fullness of the disguised aggressions of the enemies of our territorial integrity and the wrong idea that some countries have on this problem," affirmed here (?Saturday) Mr M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan foreign affairs minister and secretary general of the Istiqlal Party. At a meeting of the parliamentary group of the Istiqlal Party, Mr Boucetta indicated that "our national cause is favorably evolving and that the situation is at present better than it has been before."

He pointed out, on the other hand, that Morocco did not opt for war, and it is ready to any way [?words indistinct] with Algeria, to the elimination of the tension in the region, and to the erection of the great Maghreb." Dealing with the last attack on the Tunisian town of Qafsah, the secretary general of the Istiqlal Party said: "We are in solidarity with Tunisia, because this attack is but a prolonging of the war [words indistinct] us [word indistinct]."

Regarding the condemnation of the invasion of Afghanistan, he said that "this stand stems from our Islamic and nationalist principles, and not from an attitude of hostility or alignment on anyone." On the other hand, Mr Boucetta paid homage to Iraq for having set up the inter-Arab charter which is a great step toward unity and a service to the Arab nation." [quotation mark as received]

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI ADDRESSES NATION 18 FEB

JN181748 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 18, (SUNA)--Sudan was a pioneer of Arab solidarity, said Sudan's President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri today in his radio-televised programme "Face the Nation". Referring to what he termed "bargains on Sudan's stance towards the Arab cause, he said Sudan was the first to defend the Palestinian cause and he qualified by referring to his initiative to mediate between the Palestinians and Jordan in September, 1970 as an example in this connection. [quotation marks as received]

Numayri reconfirmed Sudan's positive stance towards African issues "that Sudan had attempted dialogue, expertise and the African disputes in a way convenient to all parties involved".

President Numayri announced that he would appoint interim commissioner to the new administrative regions during the coming few weeks. The permanent ones will be appointed early next year after the legislative organmakes necessary amendments of laws.

The Third Nation Congress of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) held during the period Jan 26-Feb 2, had recommended the division of the country into five regions, aside from the south region which already enjoys self-rule since 1973. The five regions are: the northern, the eastern, the middle, Kordofan and Darfur.

NUMAYRI INTERVIEWED ON ARAB UNITY, COOPERATION

LD150935 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Feb 80 p 4 LD

[Interview given to 'Abdallah Jifri by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in Khartoum--date not given]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, it emerges from your answers at the recent press conference and from the contents of your speech at the Third National Congress that Sudan will continue to cement its relations with Egypt despite the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel. You said that your attitude at the Tunis summit was one of silence. But after the Tunis summit there was a report about secret contacts between you and President as-Sadat. Can you clarify for us Sudan's position following the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel?

[Answer] Perhaps I should first define what I said at the press conference and, before then, what I had said in my speech at the Third National Congress, before dealing with the observations and conclusions.

At the National Congress, I spoke about the following two points in the sphere of Arab policy:

1. On the relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. These relations are intertwined and cannot be injured whatever disagreements, disputes, interpretations and inclinations may exist in Sudan or in Egypt.

2. On our attitude toward the Arab cause--the attitude to which we and the Arabs unanimously committed ourselves at the Baghdad and Tunis summits and, earlier, in Algiers and Rabat.

At the press conference, I replied to a question on Sudan's attitude after the Tunis summit. The question implied that Sudan changed its attitude after the Tunis summit. The question seemed to be a continuation and reiteration of some Arab newspaper and magazine reports on Sudan's attitude, depicting is as lacking in stability and clarity--which reports are the result sometimes of different statements and most often of distorted statements in addition to analyses that are not based on facts, despite the fact that Sudan's attitude is clear, firm and genuine.

Therefore, my answer to that question was clear and decisive. We in Sudan cannot toy with the relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. These relations are so deep and so interlinked that it is impossible to influence them or check their continuity. They are relations of kinship, neighborhood and interconnected families. I also explained that the withdrawal of ambassadors is an internationally recognized practice denoting the existence of differences and disagreements. In regard to the Egyptian-Sudanese relations, this matter [the withdrawal of ambassadors] is related to the manner in which the Arab cause is being handled. Though different in level, this measure that has been taken by us is consistent in form with the measure that has been taken by the Arab states in expression of their rejection of the Egyptian way of handling the Arab cause. Although we have not been on par with the Arab states in their disagreement with Egypt, this does not mean that we can possibly be a third party in the Egyptian-Israeli relations, whether directly or indirectly.

I now move to the main point in your question and say: By remaining silent in Tunis, I meant that I refrained from giving press interviews or making lengthy statements, but I did not mean that our stand at the Tunis summit was an idle one. Sudan participated in the conference committees and in formulating the conference recommendations and resolutions. It also declared its adherence to all these recommendations and resolutions without reservation. Furthermore, Sudan is a participating member of the delegations which the conference decided to send to various parts of the world to explain the unified Arab stand.

As for Sudan's stand following the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel, it remains the same. Sudan goes along with Arab unanimity in rejecting partial settlements and separate solutions and is exerting efforts in all spheres to secure the Arab rights, complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, the establishment of a Palestinian state and the restoration of the Arabism of Jerusalem, cooperating in all cases with the PLO which is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

[Question] It was observed that in your recent meeting with the press you spoke bitterly about the Arab states and their relations between one another in view of the inter-Arab disputes and conflicts. What is your view on the possibility of Arab solidarity, or at least, creating a unified Arab stand?

[Answer] The facts about the real role that Sudan--and I would not say myself--carried out in order to reach a formula for a unified Arab action will soon come to light. Certain Arab parties have tried to thwart this role through procrastination, postponement, indecisiveness and even plotting. I have paid a series of visits to Arab countries, visiting most of them. This took one month of my time and efforts, just before the signing of the Camp David accords. I did not only try to achieve Arab solidarity but also to reach a formula for a unified Arab action to which we all would be committed within the framework of the Algiers and Rabat summit resolutions. But certain Arab parties have resisted this effort and sought to abort it, thus directly contributing to Egypt's departure from the field of unified Arab action and to the present Arab situation in which there is only unanimity on rejecting the Camp David accords while there are differences, disputes and disagreements on what the alternative to the accords might be.

During my first and second tours to bring about solidarity I tried to secure common views on a unified Arab stand which we would all agree on and contribute to in order to insure legitimate rights. The aim was to create frameworks within which we would utilize our political, economic and political potentials in the service of the objectives on which we agree. But my efforts came up against requests by this or that side to postpone matters or to wait for the outcome of As-Sadat's efforts and endeavors or even to give As-Sadat an opportunity to exert all his efforts to reach a settlement.

I am not in a position to level charges or to apportion blame with regard to what happened later. But I would say that the lack of the desire by some to work within a unified Arab strategy has been and still is the reason behind the way the Arab situation has developed and the reason for the stalemate and paralysis in the Arab arena.

The stalemate and paralysis continue. Meanwhile, there is a unanimous rejection of the Egyptian-Israeli peace. This is a danger of catastrophic proportions for the future of the Arab nation. I know the reasons why, and they are as follows:

First, there is the evident and indisputable fact that the Arab nation is now confronting Israel minus Egypt's military, cultural, manpower and economic weight. Which means that there is an imbalance of power that can be corrected only through a unified Arab stand, a stand which, unfortunately, is still lacking.

Second, Israel, despite claiming to seek to achieve peace, is still, because of its political stands and military position, in a state of hot confrontation with the Arab nation. The Arab territories are still occupied and the Palestinian people are still dispersed in their own territories and abroad.

Jerusalem is still being usurped and is a captive of Zionism. In fact, Israel is still daily committing aggression against southern Lebanon. Therefore, the lack of a unified Arab stand does not only enable Israel to continue its intransigence and aggression but might also tempt it to expand the sphere of its aggression as well.

Third, Israel, as part of its obvious and well-known strategy, is seeking to perpetuate an Arab split which would enable it to confront the various Arab countries individually. For this reason it is not unlikely that it will launch an attack that would go beyond the Golan Heights and the West Bank of Jordan, not just for the purpose of expanding at the present stage, but also in order to underline the lack of a unified Arab stand.

Fourth, confrontation with Israel in the absence of a unified Arab action will not only have adverse military and economic results and effects on this or that Arab entity but would also affect the internal situation in the Arab countries. The sense of failure to stand united in the face of aggression would lead, and in fact it has begun to lead, to internal unrest and sectarian, religious and racial strife.

Fifth, the absence of unified Arab action in the face of Israeli arrogance and intransigence has opened the door to Arab outbidding. Such outbidding begins with propaganda campaigns and ends with attempts of direct or indirect interference in one another's internal affairs. As a result, money and blood that we badly need in confronting occupation and the usurpation of our national rights will be squandered.

Sixth, the absence of unified Arab action has thrown wide the door for international strategies to operate openly in the Arab arena. This has led to inter-Arab confrontations, on the one hand, and to confrontation between these strategies in the Arab arena and at the expense of Arab interests and objectives, on the other.

Seventh, the lack of unified Arab action, which leads to the polarization of the Arab countries and to their becoming involved in the international conflict as a part to it, enhances Israel's strength and ability to impose its aggression by alining itself with one party against another.

Eighth, Arab revolution, however much its scale and impact maybe magnified, will remain ineffective and vulnerable in the absence of unified Arab action which can be utilized politically and internationally in serving Arab objectives.

Ninth, in the absence of unified Arab action we find ourselves in a state of retreat with regard to what we unanimously agreed upon in Algiers and Rabat. I mean accepting the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It is unfortunate and painful that, as Arab recognition of this organization is receding and as it becomes the target of a propaganda campaign, this organization will not gain the recognition and respect of world and regional organizations and of foreign countries. In the light of such a retreat the PLO is even forced to defend itself in the face of other Arab parties.

Tenth, I can almost feel the plan that has been laid to subjugate the Arab nation. This plan is sometimes disguised in progressive ideals and other times in religion. The aim of the plan is to divert the attention and efforts of the Arab states, particularly the states that carry political, military, or economic weight in the confrontation with Israel, and to prevent them from carrying out their national duty by turning their attention to protecting their internal security.

Otherwise, how would we explain what recently happened in Saudi Arabia, the Arab country that has the greatest political, economical, international and military capability for determining the course of the conflict in favor of Arab interests. Or, how can we explain what recently happened in Tunis, the new Arab League headquarters, or what is happening in Syria, the field of direct military confrontation with Israel. This plan is being carried out and will continue to be carried in various Arab countries in order to serve the same objective--to distract attention away from serving the Arab cause and to devote it entirely to securing the internal situation.

For this reason I would say that the present Arab situation does not only pose a danger to the Arab nation but is also a catastrophe that can be averted only through a common Arab viewpoint and within a strategy of unified Arab action. This should be done within the Arab League and not outside it since at this stage it represents the last bastion for Arab "togetherness" and the arena in which unified, effective, and useful Arab efforts could materialize. Indeed, it is the Arab League that can led legitimacy to such action, insure its continuity, follow up its implementation and also provide a safeguard for it.

We in Sudan are seeking to lay down a strategy for unified Arab action, a strategy that accommodates all changes and provides all the means for the achievement of the Arab objectives decided upon at the Algiers and Rabat summits and confirmed by the Baghdad and Tunis summits. We will be in consultation with our Arab brothers--foremost of whom is the PLO--prior to proposing this strategy at an Arab summit. Indeed, the need for a summit in the present circumstances is such that it cannot wait till its scheduled time in November. Events and changes brook no postponment and cannot be tied down to dates.

[Question] How do you view the situation in the area, the effects of events on the Red Sea and the alternative to peace and security in the area?

[Answer] I can almost feel that we are again living in the climate of the forties and the fifties when there was cold war and international confrontation in the area in the form of alliances, blocs and foreign military bases with all the risks that these posed to the security of the region.

If there is any difference between the climate of the fifties and of today in the area, it is only a difference in terms of names. Instead of alliances we have treaties of friendship and cooperation, instead of blocs there are slogans of mutual security and instead of bases there is the term facilities and advisers.

Despite the differences in names and titles the results are identical and the aim is for the area is to become a field of international conflict and of confrontation between the various forces that will face one another on its land, on its seas and in its skies. This would halt economic and social development and create a climate of polarization, disputes, threats and even aggression.

For this reason we were the first to draw attention to this danger even before the appearance of danger signs in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea. In fact, we called for and convened the Ta'izz conference with a view to neutralizing the Red Sea and its approaches but there were some who refused to respond to our call and some other took part in the meeting only in order to abort it.

I can see no way out of the dangers the area is experiencing except by shunning international polarization and securing self-reliance in protecting the area against all dangers within a framework of cooperation among the countries of the area and after ridding ourselves of all foreign bases regardless of the slogans behind which they lurk, be these treaties of friendship or military facilities. What the countries of the area have in common is that they are developing countries and as such they do not represent an expansionist threat to one another. What they have in common is a danger facing them all, the danger of those coveting their wealth who in any case are from outside the area and not in it.

[Question] What, in your opinion, are the ways to resolve these successive crises that are befalling the Arab world? What is the position of the PLO?

[Answer] I have already answered the first part of the question. It remains for me to answer the second part--on the position of the PLO. I believe that the PLO is currently in an excellent position evidenced by unanimous Arab recognition of it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, by the international weight and importance it has acquired and by its recent achievements in the occupied Arab territories where the inhabitants have unanimously decided not to enter into any dialog except within the framework of the PLO.

Having discussed the position of the PLO, there still remain the dangers which can threaten the PLO's gains. In my opinion, the most serious danger is the internal threat to its national unity, attempts by the Arabs to polarize some of its groups and its failure so far to play its required role namely, to work for reaching a formula for unified Arab action to insure basic protection and safety for itself.

[Question] The relations between you and Libya have often alternated between clear sunshine and dense dark clouds. What are the criteria that govern your relations with Libya?

[Answer] What binds us to Libya is what binds us to all the Arab states--relations of kinship, religion, culture and a common destiny. Moreover, Libya is a neighboring state to Sudan. Therefore, the criteria governing our relationship with it are good neighborliness at the very least and fraternal cooperation in all spheres and without reservations provided our sovereignty is not jeopardized.

[Question] You have recently received a letter from U.S. President Carter. Did the letter broach the current issues in the area? How true are the reports that you have accepted the establishment of military bases in Sudan?

[Answer] Usually, President Carter's messages explain the U.S. view on international and regional developments. With regard to your question on American bases in Sudan, I believe that the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum has personally denied this report.

[Question] About 2 months ago, you visited Washington. It was said at the time that you had asked to meet with President Carter to ask for military aid and that the U.S. President did not receive you. Is that true?

[Answer] My visit to Washington was a personal one during which I underwent normal medical checks. Therefore, my meeting with any U.S. official was absolutely out of the question.

[Question] Regarding the relations between Sudan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, what is the basis of their close views and their cooperation in the Arab and Islamic spheres?

[Answer] Our relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are, thank God, more than strong and both share identical views on all Arab and regional issues. There are constant consultations between the leaderships of the two countries and at the highest levels. There is also Sudanese-Saudi cooperation in all spheres.

I am not going to enumerate the form or define the volume of this cooperation because the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by His Majesty brother King Khalid and His Highness Crown Prince Fahd, regard the kingdom's support for its Arab and Muslim brothers as a duty that should not be publicized.

However, suffice it for me to say that we in Sudan appreciate, and are grateful for, the brotherly aid the kingdom is giving to our country. At the same time, we realize that Saudi-Sudanese cooperation in the Arab and Islamic spheres always provokes the malevolence of the enemies of Arabism and Islam. These enemies always try to cast doubt on the profundity of the relations that bind Sudan and the kingdom. You might have noticed that whenever the enemies' campaign escalated, I and all the Sudanese officials used to emphasize in our official and public statements and speeches the profundity and strength of these relations. Also, the aim of my frequent visits to the kingdom was partly to foil and retaliate against the enemies' campaign.

We in Sudan realize that by Islam and for the sake of Islam we are required to play our part, particularly on the African Continent--a part which is complemented by the kingdom's role by virtue of its leadership of the Islamic nation and its responsibility for the most precious Islamic holy places and for the Muslims.

[Question] How far did you apply self-rule in southern Sudan and do you want Ethiopia to apply in Eritrea what you applied in southern Sudan?

[Answer] The answers to this probably lies in the recent National Congress of the Sudanese Socialist Union. The congress decided to apply regional self-rule in all Sudan, which is a sign of the success of self-rule in southern Sudan, success that has led to expanding it.

With regard to Ethipia, we do not have for it or for the Eritrean brothers a ready solution for the problem between them. All that we have are our efforts which we are trying to use in order to substitute dialog for conflict. We also have the successful experiment in southern Sudan, an experiment which is put before them and to others as a model and an example.

[Question] What is the situation between the government and the opposition and is it true that As-Sadiq al-Mahdi will be assigned a role to play?

[Answer] In Sudan, there is no dialog between the government and opposition. But there is the national unity that has been achieved. There is national reconciliation which I have initiated and to which the brothers who lived abroad responded. There is only one condition for this reconciliation--to work through the existing political and executive institutions and within the framework of the country's constitution. This is the framework within which all the Sudanese are working, and that dialog is open to all and the majority decides.

With regard to Brother Sadiq al-Mahdi, I have no role for him that he can play. It is up to him to decide this role through the institution and democratic practices under which the masses choose their leadership on the various levels. Every Sudanese has the opportunity to stand candidate for membership of the socialist union, and, consequently, for the presidency of the republic. This opportunity was available to every Sudanese during the National Congress session. The same thing applies to the political membership. There are some who tried this experiment and succeeded and others who failed. There are some who declined to take part, which is a matter of their own choice.

[Question] We have learned that the amount of crude oil discovered in your country is no more than 500 barrels per day. At the Third National Congress you said that this oil was a political discovery, given that Sudan is the biggest African country in area (200 million feddans). What is meant by saying oil is a political discovery and do you expect production to increase in the future?

[Answer] I did not say at the congress that oil was a political discovery. What I said was that my declaration of the discovery of oil is a political declaration related to the fact that oil exists in Sudan.

The technical aspects of this matter are still in the hands of technicians in the exploration fields who are concerned with quantities and commercial exploitation.

What I can say is that what has been discovered so far is sufficient to meet our local consumption. The exploration areas are vast and cover various, extensive parts of Sudan.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA ADDRESSES PROVINCIAL PARTY OFFICIALS ON QAFSAH

LD180018 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] President Habib Bourguiba at 1000 today at his residence at the Sahara Palace Hotel in Naftah received two delegations representing Monastir and Jundubah provinces headed by (Mohamed Ben Naser) and (Abderahman el Muqrani), secretaries general of the Party Coordination Committees in the two regions.

On the occasion, the great fighter delivered a speech in which he said: I thank you for the words I have heard whether from the free men of Monastir of Jundubah. I do not doubt the sense of loyalty these words have contained or the mood of the entire Tunisian people after the treacherous aggression. Proof of this is my insistence on staying in Qafsah province during the time of the attack.

He who planned the operation miscalculated when he imagined that the citizens would follow behind the attackers immediately after the first shot. You have heard the statements of the culprits on television. They stressed that not one single compatriot had followed them. Then they deliberately killed innocent soldiers who were under the influence of innoculations they had received.

The great fighter said: The upshot is this: There were some who died and there were some who resisted and displayed heroism and refused to betray Bourguiba. When the aggressors became certain they had failed, they took to their heels. Their leader, Ahmad al-Mirghani, who took them to Lebanon for training, was captured. Also 'Izz ad-Din ash-Sharif, is a remnant of the Yusufite movement, which I had personally forgotten.

The important thing is this. Crises only enhance the solidity of the people. The Tunisian Republic is well and will remain so as long as I am its leader. I urge you to see that after I have gone Tunisia remains well and united as I have seen it today after the Qafsah incident. I want it to be a solid single unit which is not open to the claims or the talk of madmen from Libya. I would like the work which I have undertaken for 50 years to remain immortal and Tunisia to remain proud, independent and free forever.

BOURGUIBA REAFFIRMS SOLIDARITY AGAINST LIBYA

LD191741 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba has received three Tunisian district delegations within the framework of meetings with various delegations who have been coming from all parts of the republic to see him. He affirmed that Al-Qadhdhafi has not learned the lesson taught to him by the great fighter in the Palmarion Hall. He said that our side is (?strengthened and consolidated) and that the national army and all the people are fully prepared to do their duty and that the law will pronounce its decisive judgment with regard to the aggression committed by the criminals against Tunisia.

WESTERN SAHARA

SAHARAN FIGHTERS LAUNCH ATTACK AGAINST BOJADOR

LD171000 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Information Ministry reported in a statement issued yesterday that the Saharan fighters launched a sweeping attack, as part of the Houari Boumediene offensive, against the enemy forces at Bojador on 16 February. Bojador lies on the Atlantic coast, about 100 km south of El Aaium.

The Saharan fighters occupied the enemy advance and defense lines and destroyed also the reinforcements sent to Bojador. The statement added that the Saharan fighters inflicted heavy losses on the Rabat regime forces. The Saharan fighters also shot down a Moroccan F-5 aircraft and took its crew prisoners.

MCHENRY MEETS WEIZMAN, DAYAN, WEST BANK NOTABLES

TA191835 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Feb 80 TA

[Text] America's UN Ambassador Donald McHenry had talks in Jerusalem this evening with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. No details were released.

Earlier, McHenry met with Mayor Ilyas Frayj of Bethlehem and Anwar an-Nusaybah and Hikmat al-Masri of East Jerusalem. Afterwards, the American envoy had this to say about his talks with West Bank leaders.

[Begin McHenry recording] It was a useful conversation as far as I was concerned. I understand their feelings. I understand their observations on the situation which exists here. I hope that this opportunity and exposure will be useful to me in my work, as have the other opportunities and exposures in the course of this journey. [end recording]

Details on Meeting With Notables

TA200645 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2110 GMT 19 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Jerusalem, 19 Feb--Today, U.S. UN Ambassador Donald McHenry hosted a luncheon for notables of the West Bank and East Jerusalem at the "American Colony" Hotel in East Jerusalem.

The ITIM correspondent notes that only four responded to the invitations sent by the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem to several notables of Judaea, Samaria and East Jerusalem to attend a luncheon with the ambassador. The four were Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, former member of the Jordanian Parliament Hikmat al-Masri, former Defense Minister of the Jordanian Cabinet Anwar an-Nusaybah of East Jerusalem and a senior official at the UN Welfare and Employment Agency, Anton (Bakrijian) of East Jerusalem.

At the end of the luncheon, Ilyas Frayj told the ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria that Ambassador McHenry was a serious politician. "He asked questions, listened to the answers, but did not say anything," said Frayj.

The Arab notables presented the various aspects of the Palestinian problem to the ambassador. They said that only recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people, led by the PLO, would bring real peace to the area. The notables also raised the question of the settlements and claimed that they posed a danger which threatens the existence of the Palestinians in the territories. Even Israel, time and again, has asserted that the settlements are meant to block the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The Arab notables expressed to the ambassador their objection to the fact that the United States has granted Israel the capability to strengthen the existing settlements and to establish new ones. "We are not against peace. However, we can no longer live under an occupation regime," they told the ambassador.

Replying to McHenry's question, they rejected UN Security Council Resolution 242 since it regards the Palestinians as refugees, whereas "we are sitting on our own lands." On the same issue, they praised the British Government's proposal to introduce amendments to Resolution 242 which would imply recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people. They asked the ambassador to see to it that the United States also act in support of these amendments.

The Arab notables also raised the problem of Jewish settlement in Hebron. According to them, the Jews owned only five houses in the center of Hebron until 1929, whereas "we own 1 million houses within the boundaries of the Green Line--in Haifa, Lad Ramla and even west Jerusalem." They demanded of the ambassador that the United States continue its efforts to exert pressure on the Israeli Government not to settle Jews in Hebron.

The Arab personalities also raised the question of the East Jerusalem Electric Corporation and the issue of land expropriation which, according to them, has become a daily phenomenon.

It has been further reported that the U.S. ambassador did not reply to the questions raised by the Arab representatives.

ARENS COMMENTS ON CURRENT U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL

TA191339 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Feb 80 p 19 TA

[Report of interview with Moshe Arens by Yisra'el Tomer--place and time not indicated]

[Text] "The power of the IDF equals that of the NATO armies. Maybe we do not have that many arms, but we have considerable operational strength and battle experience. This assessment is also shared in the United States, but the Washington administration will not draw the necessary conclusions. They are quite sure that Israel is snug in their pocket." This is what Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Chairman Moshe Arens had to say on his return from the United States recently. He returned with his impressions of Washington after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The key words, according to the usually reticent Professor Arens, are "explain" and "persuade." "We must persuade the Americans that in point of fact they have nobody to rely upon in the Middle East except Israel," he said. But when I asked him how it should be tackled, he could give no unambiguous answer. Professor Arens believes that the Americans are now sobering up from the illusion that the Soviet Union can be trusted to play fair. Washington has now succumbed to panic. It is trying to muster strength to check the Soviets in the Middle East, the foreign affairs and security committee chairman thinks. "At long last they are beginning to build up a conventional military force, and they are considering draft registration. In the Middle East, however, the United States is endeavoring to form a new array of Muslim and Arab states along the Egypt-Saudi Arabia-Pakistan axis, and this is not likely to benefit us."

Why?

Professor Arens: "The United States is supplying vast quantities of arms to those countries. This is a danger to Israel. We must begin a campaign of persuasion in the United States, to prevent massive arms shipments to Arab states--to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan."

How will the Americans build the new order in our region without arms shipments? I ask.

Professor Arens: "We have to explain to the Americans that the probability that the Arabs would use those weapons to check the Soviets is much smaller than the prospect that they will use the arms against us. Even those who are optimistic about the peace treaty with Egypt must keep in mind that Anwar as-Sadat is liable to change his policy, or that the Egyptian leader succeeding him will adopt a new policy toward Israel, and even that Egypt might find itself in a state of war with Israel against its wishes."

Did Professor Arens find any receptive listeners in Washington?

On this point, the Knesset defense and foreign affairs committee chairman is hard put to point out any visible achievements of his trip to Washington.

Arens: "The Americans know very well that Israel is the only reliable factor in the region, due to its ideological commitment, a commitment unlikely to be found in Arab states. However, they think that Israel's loyalty is guaranteed to them and, accordingly, they use the ploy of exerting pressure on Israel to secure the sympathy of Arab states. This is how U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's statement should be understood, that the very Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is obligating Israel to solve the Palestinian problem and return to the 1967 borders, in order to bring Jordan to the negotiations table."

According to Professor Arens, the U.S. administration is so certain of Israel's obedience that it found it unnecessary to coordinate positions with Israel's representatives in view of the grave crisis in the Middle East, which sorely dismays the chairman of of the Knesset foreign affairs and security committee. "This is a most serious situation. Even members of the U.S. Congress could not believe that this is, in fact, the state of U.S.-Israeli relations," he disclosed.

DIPLOMATS IN CAIRO VISIT EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

TA191623 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Today, the Israeli diplomats in Cairo visited the Egyptian Foreign Ministry for the first time. They discussed the normalization process between the two countries. The charge d'affairs of the embassy, Yosef Hadas, and his aides met with deputy chairman of the normalization committee, Hasan (Rajwan).

After the meeting an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the first group of diplomats from Egypt would go to Israel on Thursday to open the embassy. The Egyptian ambassador will submit his credentials in Jerusalem on 26 February.

JERUSALEM POST CITES CAIRO SOURCE ON MILITARY TIES

TA200838 Jerusalem POST in English 20 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[Report by Anan Safadi, POST Mideast affairs editor]

[Excerpt] Cairo--High-ranking Defense Ministry sources here said yesterday that Cairo would seriously consider military cooperation with Israel within an overall Middle East strategy, provided the two countries successfully concluded their talks on the projected autonomy for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The deadline for conclusion of the autonomy negotiations is next May.

The sources said they saw no reason why the two countries should not implement regional military cooperation once the peace treaty of last March is complemented by the autonomy accord called for in the Camp David peace framework agreement of September 1978.

The comment came a few hours before the arrival here last night of U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security David McGiffert, who is heading a high-powered military team to close a multi-billion dollar U.S. arms aid package to Egypt.

Egyptian Defense Ministry sources, who expect the aid to top $5 billion, said they were concentrating on acquiring some 1,000 tanks and 200 F-15 and F-16 fighter planes. They also want to manufacture F-5 jet fighters locally. Egypt's new arsenal will not be directed against Israel now that the two countries are exchanging ambassadors, the sources said.

SHARP PROTEST ISSUED ON IRELAND'S REMARKS ON PLO

TA151326 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The Israeli Government protested to the Irish Government for the joint communique it issued with the Bahrain Government at the end of the Irish Foreign minister's visit. In the joint statement Ireland expressed support for self-determination for the Palestinians. Our correspondent says that the Israeli protest has been sharply formulated. It stated that such remarks cause damage to the peace efforts in the region and cover the PLO's true identity and its goal of liquidating Israel.

BEGIN WARNS BRITAIN AGAINST AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION 242

TA191129 Jerusalem POST in English 19 Feb 80 p 2 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin issued a stern and urgent warning to Britain yesterday that its initiative to amend UN Resolution 242 would only harm peace prospects in the Middle East. Britain, he said, had fought for its own life against the odds--how could it now engage in a policy that had the "waft of appeasement" about it?

The premier made his impassioned attack on the British initiative during a farewell meeting with Sir John Mason, the outgoing British ambassador. Mason is to become High Commissioner to Australia.

Israeli officials said yesterday they expected British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington to bring his initiative to the other members of the European Economic Community for approval very soon.

Mason explained to the premier yesterday that Carrington felt the Camp David accords are not sufficient to resolve the Palestinian problem. His proposed amendment to 242 would recognize Palestinian political rights, and he would advocate accepting the Palestine Liberation Organization as the Palestinian representative. The PLO for its part would be required to accept the amended 242, thereby recognizing Israel's rights as a state. If the Europeans agreed, said Mason, and the U.S. did not object, the initiative could be put before the UN Security Council.

Begin asserted that the broad national consensus in Israel opposed talking with the PLO. The organization engaged in daily terrorism and there was no basis for claims that it was becoming moderate. It still aimed at the eradication of Israel, he said.

EMBASSY TO BE CLOSED IN EL SALVADOR

TA191618 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 19 Feb 80 TA

[Excerpt] Israel has informed El Salvador that it will be temporarily closing its embassy in San Salvador at the end of this month. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem says the embassy is being closed for budgetary reasons and in the near future Israel will appoint a non-resident ambassador to El Salvador. Our foreign news editor points out that Israel is the sixth country to close its diplomatic mission in El Salvador. The domestic situation in the country, which is on the verge of civil war, is certainly playing a part in the departure of foreign diplomats.

POLITICAL ACTIVIST GROUPS FORM NEW PARTY

TA170707 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Feb 80 TA

[Text] A new political party appeared on the scene last night: the movement for sane Zionism. Attending the founding meeting last night were members of the SHAY Party, the Civilian Rights Movement and the Feminist Organization [Na'amht]. The party plans to put up candidates in the next Knesset election.

SHELLI PARTY RESOLVES REPRESENTATION DISPUTE

TA191137 Jerusalem POST in English 19 Feb 80 p 3 TA

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv--The left-wing SHELLI coalition yesterday announced it has resolved bitter internal differences over the rotation of its Knesset deputies, and Black Panther slum activist Se-adya Marciano will, after all, succeed military historian and retired Colonel Me'ir Pa'il in the Knesset. The changeover will take place sometime next month.

IMMEDIATE HEBRON SETTLEMENT LACKS COMMITTEE SUPPORT

TA191401 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Today, only three coalition members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee--Moshe Arens, Yosef Rom and Hayim Druckman--supported the return of Jews to Hebron at the present time. The other seven coalition representatives taking part in the committee discussion spoke against settling Hebron now. The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee held a discussion with the prime minister today. The issue will be raised again in the Knesset plenum this afternoon when the HADASH faction will put forward a motion of no confidence in the government in regard to the decision to settle in the center of Hebron.

SHIM'ON PERES RESTATES POSITION ON AUTONOMY

TA181420 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Shim'on Peres says the autonomy is a figment of Menahem Begin's imagination, and the prime minister has thereby inextricably implicated Israel. The Labor Party chairman said that if the Alinement assumes power, it would be bound by the Likud government's political commitments, but it would endeavor to realize the autonomy plans only in the Gaza Strip. As for Judaea and Samaria, Peres said, the Alinement will strive to negotiate a territorial compromise with Jordan. Peres was giving a lecture at Kibbutz Nezer Sereni.

AL-AHRAM: ALLON COMMENTS ON AUTONOMY, SADAT

NC190946 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 February--Yiga'el Allon, former Israeli deputy prime minister and candidate for the leadership of the Israeli Labor Party, has said that Menahem Begin's government must rise to the level of its historic responsibility and participate with more awareness in creating suitable conditions for the establishment of autonomy.

In an exclusive interview with AL-AHRAM, published today, Allon said that the Begin government's insistence on the construction of settlements in the West Bank means the planting of obstacles in the way of peace.

Allon asked: What has the Begin government gained from the establishment of the Elon More settlement, for example? He added: The settlement now constitutes a lump in the throat of the Israeli Government which it can neither swallow nor spit out.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, Allon expressed his views on the autonomy negotiations, saying that it is difficult and unacceptable to separate the demographical and territorial bases. He said: That is why autonomy should not only be based on the demographical basis but must include the regional basis.

Allon believes that the elections for the autonomy councils should take place in secrecy and freedom, so as to enable the Arab inhabitants to express their true wishes.

Allon expressed great esteem for President as-Sadat, saying that President as-Sadat is one of the great statesmen of our age, if not the greatest. He added: "President as-Sadat's method and his intelligent tackling of the Arab-Israeli dispute will be one of the great lessons in tomorrow's universities." Allon said: In the Camp David accords, President as-Sadat was keen on guaranteeing the interests of Jordan and the Palestinians and he also paved the way for a wider political and legal course for solving the Palestinian problem.

W. BANK YOUTHS PROTEST EMBASSY OPENING

TA182117 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2055 GMT 18 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Ramallah, 18 Feb--Groups of youths from Judaea and Samaria today reacted to the opening of the Israeli Embassy in the Egyptian capital by halting studies at several schools, creating disturbances in several cities, and holding a partial commercial strike in Ramallah and Al-Birah.

The ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria reports that youths from Halhul rioted on the main Jerusalem-Hebron road and threw stones at tourist buses and at a car carrying Qiryat Arba' residents. Several of the car's windows were shattered as a result of the rioting. The passengers were not hurt. The security forces immediately rushed to the scene, dispersing the rioters and arresting several suspects.

About 300 youths from Ramallah held a demonstration in the center of the town and forced shopkeepers to close their shops. They were also dispersed by the security forces.

It should be pointed out that the disturbances were, for the most part, low-keyed.

BRIEFS

DIAMOND EXPORTS--Diamond exports are again marking time, for the third consecutive year, said diamond industry supervisor Yosef Perlmutter today. He said diamond exports last year totalled $1.224 billion. A total of $845 million worth of raw diamonds was imported as the diamond cutters made use of stocks they had accumulated during the last 2 years. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 7 Feb 80 TA]

AFGHANISTAN

STATEMENT ISSUED ON RECENT VISIT OF INDIAN ENVOY

BK191629 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1446 GMT 19 Feb 80 BK

["Statement issued following talks between Afghan authorities and S.K. Singh, special envoy of the Government of India"--ISI headline]

[Text] The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan were happy to receive in Kabul Ambassador S.K. Singh, special envoy of the Government of India. He brought and handed over a message from H.E. the Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi addressed to Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Shah Mohammad Dost, and other members of the Afghan Government also held discussion with the special envoy from India.

The special envoy of the Government of India and the concerned authorities of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan discussed the international situation and regional and bilateral issues. During the discussion it was stressed that every effort should be made to defuse the dangerous and tense situation in the region created due to the disturbing reaction of some powers over developments in Afghanistan which are internal matters of that country.

The Afghan side reiterated its commitment to strictly adhering to the policy of active and positive nonalignment, the principles of UN Charter and continuing its all-sided efforts for maintaining friendly relations with all peaceloving countries, particularly its neighbours, the USSR, India, Pakistan, Iran and others on the basis of mutual respect for independence, national sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs of each other.

The Afghan Government has no desire or intention whatsoever of (?threatening) [words indistinct] its neighbours and therefore expects [words indistinct].

Recent internal developments in Afghanistan cannot and shall not constitute any cause for alarm or concern on the part of its neighbours inviting involvement or interference of foreign powers. The attempts of certain countries to transform the neighbouring country of Pakistan, whose people are linked to the Afghan people by history, culture and religion, into an arsenal of foreign-made arms, ammunitions and aggressive and offensive armaments which is now being transformed into a base for armed aggression against Afghanistan and turning as a bridgehead posing a threat to the states neighbouring Afghanistan in general, was viewed with grave concern.

The Afghan side reiterated its desire to solve all its problems with Pakistan through peaceful and amicable negotiations without resorting to the use of force provided that Pakistan, in conformity with the aspirations of its people, reciprocates with similar intentions and adopts a more responsible attitude towards the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Afghan side reiterated that the limited contingents of the armed forces of the Soviet Union stationed upon the request of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in conformity with provisions of the Afghan-USSR treaty of friendship, good neighbourliness and cooperation, dated (?5th) December 1978, and the relevant provisions of the United Nations' Charter, would be withdrawn from the Afghan soil as soon as the cause which necessitated the request for such military assistance, namely the continued armed aggression from abroad aimed at fighting the new Afghan state system, ceases to exist under a credible guarantee.

The Afghan side requested the special envoy of the Government of India to convey to his government the sincere thanks of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for the understanding it demonstrated following the recent developments in Afghanistan which reflects the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between the Afghan and Indian people. In this consolidate these amicable ties. [as received] During talks the desire of both governments and peoples for the further strengthening of friendly relations and the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in various fields, particularly in economic and technical fields, was reiterated with full statisfaction.

INTERIOR MINISTER SPEAKS IN SHINWAR, JALALABAD

LD192214 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Sayyed Mohammed Golabzoy, the interior minister, took part in a large meeting which was organized at the center of Shinwar, chief district in the province of Nangarhar. He conveyed the sincere greetings of Babrak Karmal, the general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, to those present, which were warmly received. At this meeting a large number of the noble people from the districts of Achin, Nazian, Momand Darah and the subdistricts of Dalpur and Durbaba were present.

In his speech, the minister of interior brought into the open the interference of international reaction and world-plundering imperialism in the affairs of our country and strongly censured it. Sayyed Mohammed Golabzoy said that world imperialism, headed by the United States, is spreading propaganda concerning the help from the friendly country, the USSR, for sending limited military contingents for the purpose of preventing encroachments by foreign enemies of Afghanistan and is spreading poisonous propaganda against our country. We want to say aloud that the people of Afghanistan welcome this help from the Soviet Union and regard the Russian soldiers as important in strengthening the peace and security of the region.

In conclusion, the interior minister condemned the criminal actions of Hafizollah Amin and his terrorist clique. He expressed hope for the unity and trust of the patriotic people and [word indistinct] of Shinwar chief district in protecting the country and working for the objectives of the Saur Revolution.

A person speaking in reply for the people of the area promised that the duties which have been passed to them concerning the defense and prosperity of our country, under the guidance of the PDPA, will be carried out seriously and with all kinds of sacrifices.

According to another report, Interior Minister Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy met yesterday in Jalalabad with the provincial party of Nangarhar. In the course of a talk he conveyed to them the warm and sincere greetings of Babrak Karmal. He talked to the members of the provincial party committee about the complete unity of the PDPA leadership, which has become the object of attack by imperialist and reactionary circles, and condemned the shameless struggles of enemies of the Saur Revolution, that is, U.S. imperialism, along with the Chinese leadership and reactionary circles, in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

In reply, the secretary of the Nangarhar provincial party committee assured the interior minister that they will do their utmost for party unity and will carry forward our just struggles against the enemies of the country.

GDR PLANE BRINGS IN GOODS, TAKES OUT WOUNDED

LD171716 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1613 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul (ADN correspondent)--The second GDR plane this year to carry solidarity goods to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] arrived in Kabul on Sunday afternoon. The 10 tons of freight--academic and belletristic literature, blood plasma, medicines and blankets--are a gift from the SED Central Committee to the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA]. The consignment was accepted by member of the PDPA Central Committee Mahmud Barialay, head of the Department for International Relations in the party Central Committee. Barialay said the gift was a fresh demonstration of the fraternal solidarity of the SED and the entire GDR people with the DRA.

The Interflug IL-18 left for the return flight to Berlin a few hours later. It has on board 10 Afghan patriots wounded in the struggle against the counterrevolution who will be given medical treatment in the GDR.

AFP REPORTS HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES 19 FEBRUARY

BK191114 Hong Kong AFP in English 1100 GMT 19 Feb 80 BK

[By Erwan Jourand]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 19 Feb (AFP)--Heavy fighting continued today throughout Afghanistan between Moslem insurgents and Soviet forces, according to reports reaching here, as President Jimmy Carter's February 20 deadline for United States withdrawal from the summer Olympic games in Moscow draws near. The impending boycott, which will be waived only if Soviet forces pull out of Afghanistan before tomorrow's deadline, seems to have done nothing to decrease the number of Soviet troops, observers said. And reports from Kabul contained nothing to suggest that even a token pullout of the estimated 100,000 men might be under way.

In fact, other reports spoke of major troop and armor movements in the vicinity of Kabul yesterday, plus signs of more men being poured in, possibly to shore up Soviet control of Kabul, which observers have described as shaky.

Afghan Moslem insurgent sources here claimed today the Red Army had sustained heavy losses in the northern province of Badakhshan close to the Soviet frontier

Moslem mojahedin guerrillas attacked the airport at Feyzabad, the provincial capital, the sources said. In the course of the fighting part of the Afghan regular army garrison there reportedly fled with their weapons to the Moslem side, killing numbers of their Soviet allies as they deserted.

The sources said that Afghan regulars with Soviet support had launched a counter offensive against the insurgents in the mountainous Paktia and Nangarhar provinces adjoining the frontier with Pakistan, not far from Jalalabad.

According to Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, thought to be militarily the best structured of the Moslem rebel organizations, tanks, artillery, and MI-24 assault helicopters took part in the counter offensive.

Meanwhile Soviet MIG-23's bombed mountain villages in the sector, killing insurgents and civilians alike, the sources said.

FORMER OFFICER DESCRIBES CONDITION OF ARMY FORCES

BK191718 Hong Kong AFP in English 1645 GMT 19 Feb 80 BK

[By Jean-Francois le Mounier]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, 19 Feb (AFP)--The Afghan Army is demoralized, chafing under Soviet command and reduced to just one or two helicopter crews for its operations, according to a former major who recently left the country. The 43-year-old officer, who had six years of training in the Soviet Union, also said Soviet forces had used napalm and a gas bomb against Afghan rebels even before the December 27 Moscow-engineered coup.

The major, who refused to allow his name to be used for fear of reprisals against his family in Afghanistan, also said that morale was low among Afghan troops and [word indistinct] the flood of desertions would continue. "The Afghans are proud and cannot accept being under the command of strangers," the officer said.

He said of 15 officers commissioned with him, only two were still in active service in Afghanistan. The rest either left the country, were arrested or were sent into retirement.

The officer said the government army had at most one or two helicopter crews and nearly all the planes and helicopters flying with Afghan insignias were piloted by Russian airmen. Soviet MIG-17, MIG-19 and SU-7 fighters were flown by Soviets accompanied by Afghan sergeants with as little as three months training "just so that it can be said there are still Afghan pilots," he said.

The major said several of his colleagues in the Afghan army and air force witnessed Soviet use of napalm before the coup that brought Babrak Karmal to power. On one occasion in mid-1979, he said, they saw a bomb of toxic gas dropped in Bamian Province in central Afghanistan.

BANGLADESH

1.2 MILLION TONS OF OIL TO BE IMPORTED FROM QATAR, UAE

BK171643 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The United Arab Emirates and Qatar will supply Bangladesh with 1.2 million tons of crude oil next year. This was stated by the petroleum and mineral resources minister, Mr Ashgar Hussain, while talking to newsmen at Dacca Airport on his return from a 5-day visit to these countries.

The minister said Bangladesh will import 300,000 tons of crude oil from Qatar for the first time, while her import of oil from the UAE will increase from 600,000 to 900,000 tons in the coming year.

Mr Ashgar Hussain said both Qatar and the UAE have evinced keen interest in participating in the exploitation of mineral resources in Bangladesh. He said a team of technical experts from the UAE will arrive in Dacca next month to see the investment possibilities and the scope of providing assistance to Bangladesh. The team will include officials from the Abu Dhabi Fund.

The minister said the United Arab Emirates will support the cause of Bangladesh at the next meeting of oil ministers of the OPEC scheduled to be held in Algiers next June. It will also plead for oil price support to Bangladesh and will urge the OPEC governments to invest [words indistinct] Bangladesh economy.

Mr Ashgar Hussain said both the UAE and Qatar have responded favorably to the Bangladesh proposal for starting joint ventures in industrial fields in Bangladesh. He said both countries will benefit if they enter into joint ventures in the jute industry.

Mr Ashgar Hussain said the UAE president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, is expected to visit Bangladesh by the middle of this year.

Replying to a question, the minister described the prospects of oil reserves in the country as very good. He also ruled out any possibility of increasing oil prices further in the country.

INDIA

GANDHI DISCLOSES SOVIET CONDITIONS FOR TROOP PULLOUT

BK200916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that the rearming of Pakistan by the United States is not only dangerous for India but also for Pakistan and other neighboring countries. Mrs Gandhi said the Soviet Union has told her that they will withdraw from Afghanistan if the training of Afghan guerrillas in Pakistan stops.

The prime minister was opening the 3-day convention of U.P. Shikshah Madhyamak Sangh [secondary teacher's organization] in Gorakhpur today. Referring to the problems in Assam and the eastern region, Mrs Gandhi expressed the hope that these will be solved soon and justice will be done to everyone.

The prime minister called upon the teachers to help in the reconstruction of a new society which can cope with the modern changing world. She said teachers have a great responsibility in building up the nation by inculcating a sense of patriotism in the younger generation. The prime minister regretted that the country had been brought to economic disaster during the last 3 years but she said there is no reason to be disappointed. She has immense faith in the country's potentialities in overcoming difficult problems, she added.

SANJAY GANDHI CITED ON THREAT FROM REARMED PAKISTAN

LD191409 Paris LE MATIN in French 16, 17 Feb 80 p 10 LD

[Nathalie Blime interview with Sanjay Gandhi in New Delhi: "Sanjay Gandhi Fears Strengthening of Pakistan"--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Are you worried by the position Pakistan is taking in the region following the Soviet interventionin Afghanistan?

[Answer] Pakistan has foreign bases on its territory. Its survival is entirely dependent on foreign aid, so it is inevitably deprived of its autonomy. Having said that, it has always used the arms with which it has been provided against us. There is no reason for that to change.

[Question] However, General Zia has given guarantees.

[Answer] The Pakistani leaders have given us those before. If the threat comes from the Soviet Union, then no matter what arms are given to Pakistan, it will not be able to withstand a Red Army attack. On the other hand, if it feels itself stronger it will try to attack us.

RETURN OF SOVIET WHEAT LOAN TO BE COMPLETED IN MARCH

BK170922 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The return of the 2-million-ton Soviet wheat loan will be complete when a ship carrying the last consignment of 15,000 tons leaves Bombay port next month. The loan was taken by India in 1973 when the country faced a big grain deficit following unfavorable weather conditions. Of the total loan, half a million tons was returned in the form of other commodities.

Besides clearing of the wheat loan, the other ships are being loaded with rice and Kakinada and Kandla to be sent to the Soviet Union as part of the barter deal of crude against rice. While India received the wheat loan at a time when the country needed the grain most, the return of the loan is also being made at a time when the Soviet Union is facing a shortfall in production. Besides sending wheat and rice to the Soviet Union, India has also sent these grains to Vietnam, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Mauritius and Indonesia on loan or commercial contract.

FORMER CONGRESS-U PRESIDENT SWARAN SINGH JOINS CONGRESS-I

BK191334 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Feb 80 BK

[Text] In two separate developments, Mr Swaran Singh [former Congress-U president] has joined the Congress-I, and Mrs Nandini Satpathy [former Orissa chief minister] has resigned from the Janata Party.

In a talk with newsmen in New Delhi, Mr Swaran Singh expressed the view that the overwhelming majority of Congressmen have accepted Mrs Indira Gandhi's party as the real Congress. He expressed confidence that many other Congress-U leaders from various states will also join the Congress-I. Welcoming Mr Swaran Singh into the party, Mrs Gandhi said this will further strengthen the forces of secularism.

Mrs Nandini Satpathy, in her letter of resignation to Janata Party President Chandra Shekhar, is reported to have said that she is resigning from the party as it has not changed its policies even after the recent Lok Sabha elections. She has also criticized the Janata Party's way of functioning, both when it was in the government and outside.

CPI-M CALLS FOR COOPERATION WITH NON-CONGRESS GOVERNMENTS

BK181004 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Communist Party of India-Marxist leader, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, has stressed the need for mutual cooperation between the center and the non-Congress-I governments in Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura for solving the problems of the people. Addressing a meeting in Vijayawada, he said cooperation should not be a one-way affair. The center has also to reciprocate, he added.

NEPAL

INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY SATHE CONCLUDES TALKS

BK191417 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Feb 80 BK

[Text] India and Nepal have agreed that withdrawal of foreign troops and noninterference in the internal affairs of any country constitutes the essential basis for the establishment of a climate of peace and mutual trust among the countries of this area.

Talking to newsmen after nearly 2 hours of discussions with the Nepalese foreign secretary in Katmandu today, Foreign Secretary R.D. Sathe said that they reviewed the international situation. One of the subjects discussed at length was the situation in Afghanistan, about which both expressed concern. Sathe said that both reiterated their committment to the general stability in the region, which had been free from tension for a long time. They agreed that a call to arms is not conducive to peace and stability.

When asked about arming of Pakistan, Nepalese Foreign Secretary Jagadish Rana said Nepal is opposed to the arming of any country.

Sathe said that during the talks bilateral relations, particularly in the field of water resources and the development of these resources to the mutual benefit of the two countries, were discussed, besides exchange of views on various matters. He added both sides were committed to the early implementation of the Devighat project.

All India Radio special correspondent Karan Singh Chetri, reporting from Katmandu, says that there were also discussions on the Karnali and Pancheshwar projects. These will be taken up at technical levels.

Nepalese Foreign Secretary Jagadish Rana said that in the question of development of water resources, they are committed to the development of the region and this fact was not forgotten during the discussions.

KING SAYS 'COLD WAR' HAS COME TO SOUTH ASIA

BK191645 Hong Kong AFP in English 1112 GMT 19 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Katmandu, 19 Feb (AFP)--King Birendra of Nepal today observed that "foreign intervention and arms race" in eastern and western Asia have brought about a situation marked by "tension and a call to arms".

In a broadcast message to the nation on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Nepal's National Democracy Day, King Birendra referred to the "uneasy situation" that marked the current international situation. "Extending from the Middle East it looks as though the shadows of cold war have over-taken the region in our neighbourhood."

"Coupled with these developments, the problems of spiralling prices and energy crisis have caused real hardships to our people", the king added. In the light of this challenging situation, King Birendra called on his countrymen for a "wider, unity, self-restraint and courage combined with a fairness in approach to all problems."

PAKISTAN

MOSCOW REPORT ON PRESENCE OF CHINESE EXPERTS DENIED

BK191538 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Feb 80 BK

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad today categorically denied a Radio Moscow report, quoting an Indian news agency, that Chinese experts have arrived in Pakistan to establish a center in Azad Kashmir for the training of saboteurs and terrorists who will be sent to Afghanistan and India after training. Moscow radio did not disclose the name of the Indian news agency.

The spokesman said the report is totally fictitious.

CHINA DONATES $300,000 FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

BK160352 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Feb 80 BK

[Text] China has given $300,000 for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The Chinese permanent mission in Geneva presented the contribution yesterday to the UN High Commissioner's Office for Refugees.

PRESIDENT HAQ ON POSSIBLE TALKS WITH SOVIET UNION

BK191033 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 19 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpt] The president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said that the federal convention will be called in less than 10 day's time in Rawalpindi. Talking to newsmen on arrival in Lahore this morning on a day's visit, he said that the convention would also include journalists besides people from other walks of life.

In reply to a question as to whether there was any possibility of a dialog between Pakistan and the Soviet Union on the basis of equality, the president said that it was a sensitive question. He, however, said that he would let them know in due course of time. He added that it would be premature to comment on certain things which are not yet finalized.

Later, the president presided over a meeting of the design selection committee of the (Data Darbar) mosque and finally approved the model and design of the mosque.

RELIEF DELEGATION VISITS AFGHAN REFUGEE CAMPS

BK170551 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The president of the International Rescue Committee, Mr John Whitehead, has said the problem of Afghan refugees in Pakistan is graver than what has been realized by the world community.

He was talking to newsmen at (Tesarabad) camp of the Afghan refugees, which he visited today along with other members of the seven-member joint delegation of IRC and CARE. He said the problem of health of the refugees was particularly very serious.

He said the delegation was currently visiting Pakistan to determine the problems and needs of the Afghan refugees. The IRC and the CARE would thus start relief program for the refugees.

The chairman of the Committee for American Relief Everywhere, Mr (Edwin Wesley), said his organization had so far provided relief articles, such as quilts and blankets, for the refugees. He felt that there was need for more relief articles, including tents, which his organization could also provide.

Talking to the Afghan refugees, Mr (Edwin Wesley) said the people of the United States, Canada and West European countries understood their plight and they were providing assistance for their succor. He said that the Americans appreciated their spirit for independence.

The delegation also visited the (Yanjadar) camp in Peshawar district. The elders of the Afghan refugees informed the delegation of the circumstances which forced them to take refugee in Pakistan. They expressed their determination to free their homeland from foreign occupation. They said that the Soviet troops and aircraft resorted to indiscriminate bombing and strafing, destroying their mosques, villages, crops and houses. The Soviets even used suffocating gas and napalm bombs against the Afghan people. They thanked the Pakistan Government for providing them shelter and food.

KARACHI RADIO COMMENTARY ON IMPLICATIONS OF AFGHAN PROBLEM

BK170233 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 16 Feb 80 BK

[Mukhtar Zaman news commentary]

[Excerpts] The demand for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Afghan territory seems to be snowballing with the passage of time. First, the United Nations General Assembly and then the Islamic foreign ministers conference had declared in clear ringing tones that the foreign troops had no business to be on the territory of an independent country. And now the UN Human Rights Commission has come out with a similar demand.

Of course, the Soviet delegate, as expected, did not agree with the resolution of the Human Rights Commission and described it as illegal. He said this resolution would heighten tension in Asia. The voting pattern was interesting. The resolution was adopted by 27 votes against 8. There were six abstentions, including Yugoslavia and India--both of them being key members of the nonalined group. The only nonalined country which voted with the Soviet Union was Syria. This means that most of the nonalined nations, too, were not happy with the situation.

Syria's attitude is governed by the Palestine issue. Israelis are occupying the Golan Heights and constantly threatening Syria. The Soviet Union is the main supplier of arms to Syria, which is governed by the Ba'thist regime. It leads to the inevitable conclusion that the U.S.-backed Israel is one of the most complicating factors in the already complex situation in the region. In spite of this, it was quite clear that the majority of the nations in the world are keen to see the evactuation of Soviet troops. The Human Rights Commission echoes the voices raised in the General Assembly on 14 January.

Meanwhile, two factors of relevant importance are the decisions of the international Olympic body and the European Parliament. While the former has rejected the idea of the boycott of the summer Olympics, the latter has favored a boycott. The Americans, Australians and a number of other countries are also boycotting the Olympics. This has created an intriguing situation. If the Olympics are held without some of the major sporting countries, the whole exercise might look like a [word indistinct].

A ban on the export of 17 million metric tons of wheat from America is being followed up by the demands for halting shipment of fertilizers and certain other items. These steps may or may not be effective enough to persuade the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops. But they are indicative of the gradual heating up of the situation.

An American spokesman has categorically stated that there does not seem any likelihood that the Soviets have any intention whatsoever of withdrawing. It seems that though India has been suggesting a token, if not a total, withdrawal, Mr Gromyko has not accepted the suggestion. This does not mean a rift in the Soviet-Indian relations, but it does point out a difference in approach. Indian experts went to the extent of calling the Gromyko mission as futile. It appreciated the situation when it declared that the demand for a guarantee to stop the so-called intrusion of the refugees in Pakistan territory is difficult to meet in the human condition even if Islamabad is willing.

In this background, one should look at the slowly rising military strength in the Gulf region. There are already 27 Soviet warships in the Gulf of Oman. Another 14 warships, which were stationed in the China Sea, are reported to be on the move, presumably toward the Gulf region. This is a speculation which will be confirmed soon. Among these ships is included a missile launcher of the Soviet Union.

On the other side, President Carter has ordered 1,800 U.S. marines to join the American ships now patrolling the Gulf area.

The conclusion is obvious: A clash in the Gulf region between the two superpowers may or may not occur, but both sides are apparently prepared for it. No one will be caught napping if the situation gets out of control and no one can say with certainty that if confrontation turns into a clash, when and where it will end. One can only hope that statesmanship will triumph and a way out will be found because the biggest losers will be the nations of this region.

SRI LANKA

H.W. JAYEWARDENE LEAVES TO SERVE ON COMMISSION ON SHAH

BK191321 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Well-known lawyer and one of Sri Lanka's leading human rights protagonists Mr H.W. Jayewardene, Q.C. [Queen's Counsel], who is also younger brother of President Jayewardene, left for Geneva yesterday to serve on the international commission that will investigate Iranian grievances against the deposed shah.